

Name of activity to be assessed:

Local Plan Regulation 18: Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for Development Management policies 2020 Consultation Strategy

Completing Officer's Name:
Service Area/Team

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Planning Services; Planning Policy & Strategy

Date Completed:

09 December 2019

Quality control:

EIA checked by (Name of line manager):

Suzanne Parkes

Date approved:

10 December 2019

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of an Equality Screening form and Impact Assessment is to improve the work of the Council by making sure that we promote equality and do not discriminate. This ensures that individuals and teams consider the likely impact of their work on residents and take action to improve.

What is the main purpose of this strategy/policy/function/project/activity?

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will set out how communities and places within the Borough will develop over the next 15 years. The Local Plan is a statutory requirement and the Government has made it clear that all local authorities must have an up-to-date Local Plan.

The next key milestone in the Local Plan programme is to undertake a further Regulation 18 consultation in January 2020, this follows the Strategic Options Consultation 2016/17 and Options Consultation 2019. The consultation is therefore the third with our residents, businesses and other stakeholders during the early stages of the plan preparation on what our new Local Plan should contain, the key issues it should address and the different approaches for doing so. The role of these Regulation 18 consultations has been to consider what type of place we all want the Borough to be over the next 15 years

A draft Consultation Strategy has been prepared which sets out how we will consult with residents and key stakeholders for the next Local Plan consultation which is scheduled to start on Monday 27 January and finish on 9 March 2019.

The draft Consultation Strategy sets out how we will consult with residents and key stakeholders. Similar to the previous Options Consultation Strategy, a section on engagement with Elmbridge Councillors, Surrey County Councillors and Claygate Parish Council with a timetable setting out the key milestones for communication has been included.

Given the wide-ranging remit of the consultation document and the focus on more detailed elements of policies, it is considered that consultation events at this stage are also focussed. As

such, three workshops with local community groups and residents' associations will be held within the consultation period. Two will be day-time sessions and there will be one evening workshop, all to be held at the Civic Centre. The content will be the same of each to allow flexibility and choice to those invited to attend.

The consultation will be actively publicised by the Council through a series of press releases, social media posts and signposting on the Council's home webpage. Similar to previous consultations a specific consultation webpage will be set up with a quick-link.

The Council will consult with everyone on its consultee database by email and / or letter, including specific bodies and general consultation bodies identified in the Statement of Community Involvement as well as individual members of the public who have requested to be notified of the Local Plan progress.

The Consultation Document will be available to view at the Borough's libraries and the Civic Centre for people to view. A hard copy questionnaire format with the necessary privacy notice will be made available for those who are unable to access a computer.

What outcomes do you want from this strategy/policy/function/project/activity?

The Consultation Strategy is designed to support the delivery of good quality and regulatory compliant consultation which informs the preparation of the new Elmbridge Local Plan.

Overall, by working with our communities and other interested stakeholders we will seek to prepare a new Local Plan that delivers 'good growth' providing much needed new and affordable homes which are supported by appropriate infrastructure and services but also protects and enhances the character and the environment of our Borough.

This public consultation seeks the communities' and key stakeholders' views on the key issues and opportunities for the Local Plan, what the Local Plan should be aiming to achieve and the proposed five strategic objectives as well as the policy directions. Responses will help to shape the direction of the new Local Plan which will be presented in a Draft Plan in 2020 (Regulation 19).

Could the outcome be different if you are from a particular group?

The Local Plan will be written for all members of the community and not for specific individuals or groups. As a result, it is unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on any particular individual or group.

Impact on Specific Groups

Assess where you think the activity could have an impact on any of the groups.

The Consultation enables groups and individuals to make representation regarding the direction of the new Local Plan and specifically on the key issues and opportunities for the Local Plan, what the Local Plan should be aiming to achieve and the proposed five strategic objectives as well as the policy directions.

The Council will consult with everyone on its consultee database by email and / or letter, including specific bodies and general consultation bodies identified in the Statement of Community Involvement as well as individual members of the public who have requested to be notified of the Local Plan progress.

The Local Plan consultation database is extensive and includes consultees who represent those with protected characteristics.

Further details of the consultation process are provided in the Elmbridge Statement of Community Involvement 2018.

Communications, the publication of consultation material (digital and paper) and location of community workshops to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan and the Council's Accessible Documents Guidelines. No potentially adverse impacts have been identified for any other group.

Options Consultation Strategy	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and justification
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<p>Age</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Publication of material (digital and paper) and location of consultation workshops to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan and the Council's Accessible Documents Guidelines.</p> <p>Similar to the Options Consultation, this January Consultation will be an on-line consultation and arrangements will be put into place for those unable to access the computer or without an e-mail address.</p> <p>Throughout the six- week consultation there will be support to complete the online questionnaire available over the telephone or in person at the Civic Centre. There will be no requirement to book an appointment. Alternatively, residents are able request a hard copy (this included the privacy notice declaration form to comply with GDPR) via telephone and officers will sent this out along with a pre-paid envelope to assist the resident in returning their response.</p> <p>During the previous Options Consultation, officers are aware there was some confusion over this element of the consultation and there was criticism that some older people had struggled with the on-line nature of the consultation. Therefore, hard copies of the response form and pre-paid envelopes will be made available at the Civic Centre reception and the borough libraries alongside the Consultation Document.</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on gender reassignment issues</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on marriage and civil partnership issues</p>

Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on pregnancy and maternity issues
Disability <i>Defined as - if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities e.g. you may need someone to help you or you use a piece of apparatus.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Publication of material (digital and paper) and location of consultation workshops to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan and the Council's Accessible Documents Guidelines.
Race <i>Including colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	Publication of material (digital and paper) to be as accessible as practically possible in accordance with the Elmbridge Equality Plan 2017-2022 Objectives Action Plan. and the Council's Accessible Documents Guidelines
Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on religion, belief or lack of religion/belief issues
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on gender issues.
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	It is not considered that this Consultation Strategy will impact on sexual orientation issues

Please provide details of any other impacts on other groups, for example:

- those living in deprived areas
- those facing exclusion
- households on low incomes
- young people in transition to adulthood
- those with low education achievement
- vulnerable workers
- those with barriers to employment
- vulnerable and isolated older people
- carer's and ex-offenders

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If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group, are these of a high impact?

	Yes	No
High Impact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓ <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>i.e. it is discriminatory against one or more groups</i>		
Comments		

Conclusion and next steps

It is considered that the Consultation Strategy to support the Local Plan Regulation 18: Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for Development Management policies 2020 will not unlawfully discriminate against any group or individual or provide the grounds for such discrimination.

Next Steps

If the impact is high and/or of **negative impact** then a full assessment is required, please complete parts 2 and 3 on the following pages of this form.

If a full impact assessment is **not required**, then you should not complete parts 2 and 3 of this form.