

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TITLE: Draft Environmental Protection Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Description of Changes
19.08.2021	1	Stewart House/Tom Evans	Initial Draft
-	-	Sarah Walker	EDI sign off
13.09.2023	2	Stewart House/Tom Evans	Final Draft
23.01.2024	3	Stewart House/Tom Evans	Adoption document
31.01.2024	4	P. Christian	EDI sign off

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service / service users)

Department	Strategic Planning
Service	Environmental and Neighbourhood Services
Date	23/01/2024
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Strategy
Lead officer responsible for assessment	Tom Evans, Neighbourhood Plan Manager and Interim Environmental Planning Manager
Other members of team undertaking assessment	Stewart House
Version 2	3
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document	YES

<p>Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation)</p> <p>Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service</p>	<p>Final Draft Environmental Protection Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Supplementary Planning Documents (“SPDs”) provide further detail to the policies contained in the development plan. They can be used to provide guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan and are not policy in and of themselves, rather, they provide guidance on how existing policy should be applied. They must be consistent with national planning policy, must undergo consultation and must be in conformity with policies contained within the Local Plan.</p> <p>The council has prepared an adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD. The adoption SPD provides additional guidance primarily on the implementation of policy SE 12</p>
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	<p>(‘Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability’), in the council’s Local Plan Strategy, adopted in July 2017. The SPD also provides guidance on environmental policies in the council’s Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD), adopted in December 2022. The SPD once adopted, should assist applicants when making planning applications, and the council in determining them. The SPD provides further guidance on existing policies, rather than setting a new policy approach in relation to environmental protection matters.</p> <p>In September 2022 the Council consulted on a first draft of the document and in November 2023 a final draft document was consulted on. The SPD has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared alongside the integrated Sustainability Appraisal work which supported the Local Plan Strategy. An Equalities Impact Assessment was also prepared to support the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. The assessments found that the LPS and SADPD policies (including policies particularly relevant to the SPD) are unlikely to have negative effects on protected characteristics or persons identified under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>The assessment found that the LPS and SADPD policies are unlikely to have negative effects on protected characteristics or persons identified under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>An Adoption Document Developer Contributions SPD has now been prepared and is the subject of this assessment.</p>
<p>Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</p>	<p>Public consultation took place on the final draft SPD for four weeks in accordance with the Town and Country Planning ((Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) and the council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement, which require at least 4 weeks public consultation. Consultation on the final draft SPD took place over November and December 2023. Consultation included focused communication to the general public, town and parish councils, statutory consultees, elected members and consultees who have registered on the strategic planning database, plus general promotion to the wider public through press releases and social media.</p>

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	<p>Consultation is mainly undertaken digitally through an online system that allows interested parties to comment on specific sections of the document most relevant to their interests, or to provide general comments on the entire document. Feedback was also received via email to the Strategic Planning inbox.</p>
<p>What consultation method(s) did you use?</p>	<p>The council prepares a Statement of Community Involvement which provides detail on how it will consult on Local Plan documents and SPDs. This includes the availability of documents, how residents and stakeholders will be notified etc. The council's Local Plan consultation database, which will be notified of the consultation, also includes a number of organisations who work alongside groups with protected characteristics in the borough.</p> <p>The council prepares a Statement of Community Involvement which provides detail on how it will consult on Local Plan documents and SPDs. This includes the availability of documents, how residents and stakeholders will be notified etc. The council's Local Plan consultation database, which will be notified of the consultation, also includes a number of organisations who work alongside groups with protected characteristics in the borough.</p> <p>Two stages of consultation have taken place on the SPD, with all comments reviewed and a variety of amendments made in response to the feedback. A report of consultation summarising the key feedback and amendments has been prepared and is published alongside the adoption document.</p>

Stage 2 Initial Screening

<p>Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)</p>	<p>Those living and working in the borough, property owners, landowners and developers, clinical commissioning groups, special interest groups. Ward councillors.</p>
<p>Who is intended to benefit and how?</p>	<p>Local communities including landowners and developers. The SPD will provide additional guidance on the implementation of existing planning policies related to the assessment of planning applications on matters relating environmental protection providing guidance on how such matters</p>

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	as air quality, contaminated land, noise, light pollution and odour should be dealt with by applicants and how the policies of the development plan will be applied to these matters.
Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?	No, the SPD builds upon existing planning policy guidance and provides further information about how the council will consider planning applications. The provision of an Environmental Protection SPD will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of all communities where development takes place. The SPD, in applying additional guidance to assist in the interpretation of planning policies should be beneficial to all groups.
Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?	No, the introduction of the SPD is not based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances. The SPD includes information on the matters related to pollution in various forms. The content of the SPD does not relate directly to the characteristics of human populations.
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)	No, the SPD is not intended to affect different groups or communities in this way.
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?	No, the SPD is not intended to target any group and will be consulted upon in line with the council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics?	Yes/ No
Age	No
Disability	No
Gender reassignment	No
Marriage & civil partnership	No
Pregnancy & maternity	No
Race	No
Religion & belief	No
Sex	No

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Sexual orientation	No
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What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts

<p>Age</p>	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by this document. The adopted policies to which this guidance relates, have previously been subject to EqIA and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p>

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Gender reassignment	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by this document. The adopted policies to which this guidance relates, have previously been subject to EqIA and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.</p>
Marriage & civil partnership	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The</p>

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<p>Pregnancy & maternity</p>	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by this document. The adopted policies to which this guidance relates, have previously been subject to EqIA and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.</p>

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<p>Race</p>	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by this document. The adopted policies to which this guidance relates, have previously been subject to EqIA and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.</p>
<p>Religion & belief</p>	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by</p>



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Sex	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p> <p>The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy and SADPD.</p> <p>No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from either stage of consultation which indicates groups with protected characteristics would be negatively affected by this document. The adopted policies to which this guidance relates, have previously been subject to EqIA and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.</p> <p>The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.</p> <p>The adoption version of the Environmental Protection SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE12 'Pollution, Land Contamination and Land Instability', and policies set out in the SADPD. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to satisfy these requirements related to their sites.</p> <p>The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the health and wellbeing of communities and ensure that the environmental impacts of development are appropriately mitigated for, minimising such impacts, improving the general amenity, and in some instances the health, of human populations.</p>

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Proceed to full impact assessment?	No
Date:	23/01/2024

Lead officer sign off	 <p>Tom Evans</p>
Date	23/01/2024
Head of service sign off	 <p>David Malcolm</p>
Date	23/01/2024

If yes, please proceed to Stage 3. If no, please publish the initial screening as part of the suite of documents relating to this issue