

# Appendix 4: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**TITLE: Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)**

## VERSION CONTROL

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description of Changes</b>
<b>19 / 07 / 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	Tom Evans	<b>Initial Draft</b>
<b>10 / 10 / 2023</b>	<b>2</b>	Tom Evans	<b>Final Draft</b>
<b>18 / 01 / 2024</b>	<b>3</b>	Tom Evans	<b>Adoption Doc</b>
<b>31 / 01 / 2024</b>	<b>4</b>	P. Christian	<b>Adoption Doc</b>

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

<b>Department</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Service</b>	Environmental and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Lead officer responsible for assessment</b>	Tom Evans, Neighbourhood Plan Manager
<b>Other members of team undertaking assessment</b>	n/a
<b>Date</b>	18/01/2024
<b>Version</b>	<u>3</u>
<b>Type of document</b>	Strategy
<b>Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document</b>	Revision of existing document

<p><b>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)</b></p> <p><b>Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service</b></p>	<p><b>Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)</b></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>In August 2022, the Council consulted on a first draft Developer Contributions SPD. The draft SPD provided additional guidance on the implementation of polices IN1 (“Infrastructure”), IN2 (“Developer Contributions”) and multiple polices related to highways, education, affordable housing, green spaces,</p>
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	<p>blue light services and a series of other matters including heritage, design, public rights of way, public health and flooding.</p> <p>In November 2023, the Council consulted on a final draft Developer Contributions SPD which incorporated amendments base on feedback received from the first stage of consultation.</p> <p>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 developer contributions and includes guidance on the processes, financial calculations and the legal agreements that CEC use when securing contributions from development.</p> <p>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>The SPD provides further guidance and advice on policies held in the Local Plan Strategy (LPS) and Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared alongside the integrated Sustainability Appraisal work, for both these adopted documents. Therefore, the policies to which this document provides guidance have already been subject to EqIA.</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><b>Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</b></p>	<p>Public consultation will 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 this 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</p>

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	<p>have registered on the strategic planning database, plus general promotion to the wider public through press releases and social media.</p> <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><b>What consultation method(s) did you use?</b></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><b>Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)</b></p>	<p>Those living and working in the borough, property owners, landowners and developers, clinical commissioning groups, special interest groups. Ward Councillors.</p>
<p><b>Who is intended to benefit and how?</b></p>	<p>Local communities including landowners and developers. The SPD will provide additional guidance on the implementation of existing planning policies related to securing investment contributions toward a range of public infrastructure, including public services infrastructure. Developers will benefit from additional clarity on how to successfully meet policy obligations, the Council will benefit from establishing consistent</p>

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	methods, in a single document that all officers can use and ensure business continuity through staff changes. Individuals within local communities will benefit from the various contributions secured, and less visibly, the Council will benefit from guidance that helps make CEC processes more efficient.
<b>Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?</b>	No, the SPD builds upon existing planning policy guidance and provides further information about how the Council will consider planning applications. Securing developer contributions will assist in supporting balanced communities with the right range of social, transport and green infrastructure that underpins successful places. The SPD, in applying additional guidance to assist in the interpretation of planning policies should be beneficial to multiple groups and whilst there may be different impacts or outcomes for some groups, this will be very much dependent on the specific mitigation measures required in the development process.
<b>Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?</b>	No, the introduction of the SPD is not based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances. The SPD includes information on the approach to assessing the impact of development, and the means that may be necessary to mitigate for any harmful impacts (for example providing improved habitats off site, where a development site cannot avoid destruction of an existing habitat).
<b>Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)</b>	No, the SPD is not intended to affect different groups or communities in this way. Whilst development will take place in various different communities, the SPD is designed to apply to all development ensuring consistency of approach regardless of where the development takes place.
<b>Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?</b>	No, the SPD is not intended to target any group and has been consulted upon in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

<b>Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics?</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Disability</b>	<b>No</b>

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Gender reassignment	No
Marriage & civil partnership	No
Pregnancy & maternity	No
Race	No
Religion & belief	No
Sex	No
Sexual orientation	No

**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**



<b>Age</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Disability</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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

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	and found that no significant impact on protected characteristics was likely to arise from their implementation.
<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Race</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Religion &amp; belief</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.

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<b>Sex</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No negative impacts are identified in relation to any of the specific characteristics. No feedback was received from the 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.

<b>Lead officer sign off</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18/01/2024</b>
<b>Head of service sign off</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18/01/2024</b>