

Equalities Impact Assessment

Sefton Local Plan

December 2014

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Current legislation and national planning policies and guidance require Sefton Council to put into place an up to date 'Local Plan', setting out the Council's spatial planning and development strategy for the Borough.

1.2 The Council's Local Plan will comprise of the Local Plan and the Policy Map.

1.3 Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace the Sefton Unitary Development Plan [2006].

2 EQUALITY ACT 2010

2.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) identifies 9 different 'Protected Characteristics'. These are:

- (i) age;
- (ii) disability;
- (iii) gender reassignment;
- (iv) marriage and civil partnership;
- (v) pregnancy and maternity;
- (vi) race;
- (vii) religion or belief;
- (viii) sex; and
- (ix) sexual orientation.

2.2 In addition to these protected characteristics this assessment will also consider the impact on people from deprived backgrounds/areas.

2.3 The 2010 Act prohibits the direct or indirect discrimination of any person or group who has or shares a particular Protected Characteristic, where such direct or indirect discrimination occurs because of that particular Protected Characteristic.

2.4 Section 149 of the 2010 Act sets out a 'Public Sector Equality Duty' (the Duty) on all public authorities. The Duty requires that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have 'due regard' to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a Protected Characteristic and people that do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a Protected Characteristic and people who do not share it.

2.5 Accordingly, the Council will need to ensure that it discharges the Duty in its formulation and implementation of the Local Plan.

2.6 In light of the above, the Council has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the draft Local Plan. An EqIA is a way of assessing the impact, or likely impact, that a particular policy, procedure or decision will have on a particular group(s). EqIAs can therefore assist public authorities in identifying potential adverse or negative impacts on particular groups and the necessary action or steps required to, as far as possible, mitigate or eliminate such impacts and promote equality.

3 THIS REPORT

3.1 The EqIA explored the impact of implementing the policies contained within the draft Local Plan and the purpose of this Report is to describe the process and findings of this EqIA.

3.2 This Report will set out the findings of the EqIA by rating the potential impact of policies in each chapter of the Local Plan on groups that share each of the Protected Characteristics. Impact is assessed as being one of Positive High (significant positive impact), Positive Low (some positive Impact) Neutral (no impact), Negative High (significant negative impact) or Negative Low (some negative impact).

4 THE BOROUGH OF SEFTON

4.1 Sefton is a coastal borough. It lies in the northern part of the Liverpool City Region with which it shares close economic, social, cultural and transport links. It also has important links to Preston and West Lancashire. Sefton adjoins the City of Liverpool to the south, the borough of Knowsley to the south-east, and the largely rural West Lancashire elsewhere.

4.2 Sefton has a total estimated population of 273,790 residents and 117,930 households.

4.3 According to the most recent available information¹, the population of Sefton, by reference to each Protected Characteristic, is comprised as follows:

Age:

Under 18: 54,334 [19.85%]

Over 65: 57,011 [20.82%]

Over 85: 7,526 [2.75%]

Sex:

Male 131,237

Female 142,553

Marital status:

Single [never married] 74,992

Married: 104,250

Same sex civil partnership: 373

Separated: 5,367

Divorced: 21,124

Widowed: 20,329

Race:

White British: 259,629

White Irish: 2,312

White gypsy and traveller: 120

White other: 4,680

Mixed race: 2,820

Asian: 2,719

Black: 796

¹ 2011 Census

Other: 714

Religion:

Christian 210,184

Buddist 504

Hindu 525

Jewish 486

Muslim 1189

Sikh 105

Other religion 568

No religion 43,196

Not stated 17,033

Disability:

Total households - 117,930

H/holds with at least 1 person limiting long-term illness or disability - 36,410

People whose day to day activities are limited:

A lot - 32,202

A little - 29,859

Deprivation:

Households with no deprivation dimension² - 45,823 [38.86% of all Sefton h/holds]

Households with one deprivation dimension - 38,478 [32.63% of all Sefton h/holds]

Households with two deprivation dimensions - 25,880 [21.94% of all Sefton h/holds]

Households with three deprivation dimensions - 7,126 [6.04% of all Sefton h/holds]

Households with four deprivation dimensions – 623 [0.53% of all Sefton h/holds]

No information available for sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy/maternity

[Please note all information gathered from the 2011 census]

5. THE ASSESSMENT

The remainder of this report sets out the EqIA of the policies [presented by the Chapters they are in].

² The dimensions of deprivation are indicators based on the four selected household characteristics - Employment (any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick); Education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); Health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or very bad' or has a long term health problem); and Housing (Household accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating)

Chapter:	Sustainable Development	
Summary:	This chapter comprises high level policies setting out the principles for sustainable development. These provide the framework for more detailed policies in the plan.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Positive Low	Policy SD2 identifies one of the key priorities as being to meet the housing needs for the elderly. This chapter only provides broad policies so the direct impact can only be determined to be low.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Positive Low	Policy SD2 identifies key priorities for special needs housing and also to improve access. Both these points will particularly help people with a disability or a limiting long-term illness. This chapter only provides broad policies so the direct impact can only be determined to be low.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different race than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Positive Low	Policy SD2 identifies one of the key priorities is to improve access. This may particularly help pregnant women or parents with young children who would benefit from improve access to a range of services and facilities. This chapter only provides broad policies so the direct impact can only be determined to be low.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive Low	Policy SD2 identifies a number of priorities that are likely to help those living in deprived areas/households, such as supporting urban regeneration, promoting economic growth, seeking to meet a wide range of housing need and improving access to a range services, facilities and jobs. This chapter only provides broad policies so the direct impact can only be determined to be low.

Chapter:	Meeting Sefton's Needs	
Summary:	This chapter sets out the housing and employment requirements for the period of the Local Plan and the site allocations which will meet a significant proportion of these requirements. Subsequent policies in the plan are site specific and set out in detail how development of sites will be managed.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different age than the rest of the population.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Neutral	Whilst this chapter does contain some site specific policies that seek to improve access within specific sites, this will only affect new residents of these sites and not the overwhelming population of Sefton.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different race than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who are pregnant/on maternity than the rest of the population.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive Low	Policy MN2 allocates sites for employment use and states that job outputs must be maximised, including for local people.

Chapter:	Economic Development and Regeneration	
Summary:	This chapter sets out our policies that seek to secure economic growth in the borough. One of the key policy areas is the Port of Liverpool. This chapter also promotes and guides development to existing town and local centres, identifies areas of regeneration potential and sets out development principles for tourism and other development in the Southport area.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different age than the rest of the population.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Positive Low	Policy ED2 sets out that existing centres and shopping parades should be the main focus for retail, leisure and town centre uses. As these areas are well served by public transport they are more accessible than out-of centre locations and therefore this will help people who have mobility issues.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different race than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who are pregnant/on maternity than the rest of the population.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive Low	This chapter includes policy ED6 Regeneration which sets out the Council's priorities for regeneration. These areas are largely the areas which contain, or are close to, the majority of deprived households in Sefton and as such the implementation of this policy is likely to achieve a positive outcome for people in this group.

Chapter:	Housing and Communities	
Summary:	This chapter sets out policies for the different types of homes that we will seek to secure in Sefton. It also sets out our approach to development in residential areas and to existing homes. The chapter concludes with policies to protect buildings and land of community value.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Positive High	Policies HC1 and HC2 set out our approach to the provision of special needs housing, which includes housing for older people. Policy HC2 also requires 20% of homes to be designed to meet Lifetime Homes standards. This allows people to easily adapt their homes into later life and choose to live there longer. Policy HC7 seeks to protect sites of schools and care institutions which are likely to help younger and older people.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Positive Low	Policy HC2 requires 20% of homes to be designed to meet Lifetime Homes standards. This allows people to easily adapt their homes if they become less mobile due to illness.
Race	Positive Low	The policies in this chapter are largely neutral in impact on people of different races. Policy HC5, however, identifies sites for gypsy and traveller accommodation. Gypsy and travellers are a recognised ethnic minority.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who are pregnant/on maternity than the rest of the population.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive High	Policy HC1 sets out a clear approach to secure affordable housing in Sefton. This is likely to benefit those from a deprived background/low income more than others. Policy HC5 identifies sites for traveller accommodation, who are often from a low income background.

Chapter:	Infrastructure	
Summary:	This chapter sets out how we intend to secure improvements to infrastructure as a result of development. Other policies set out the key transport priorities in Sefton during the Local Plan period and the strategic policy for waste management [detailed policies of which are in the adopted Merseyside Waste Local Plan]	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Positive Low	Policy IN2 Transport seeks to improve public transport in relation to new and existing neighbourhoods. This may help younger people who will not have access to a private car who would benefit from improved access to a range of services and facilities.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Positive Low	Policy IN2 Transport seeks to improve public transport in relation to new and existing neighbourhoods. This may help people with reduced mobility who would benefit from improved access to a range of services and facilities.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Positive Low	Policy IN2 Transport seeks to improve public transport in relation to new and existing neighbourhoods. This may help pregnant women or parents with young children who would benefit from improved access to a range of services and facilities.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive Low	Policy IN2 Transport seeks to improve public transport in relation to new and existing neighbourhoods. This should particularly help people of deprived backgrounds who are less likely to access to a private car. This should improve opportunities to access employment, services and facilities.

Chapter:	A Quality, Healthy Environment for Sefton	
Summary:	This is a wide ranging chapter that in broad terms seek to mitigate any negative impacts from new development and maximise benefits. It covers issues such as pollution and contaminated land, flood risk, energy efficiency, design, open space and accessibility.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Positive Low	The provision of public open space, as required in Policy EQ9, will benefit younger people who are more likely to use the play facilities that often are located in these areas. Policy EQ10 sets a framework for restricting fast food takeaways near schools.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Positive High	There are a number of policies in this chapter of the Local Plan that could have a significant positive impact on people with a disability or limiting long-term illness. Policies on Design and Access [EQ2 and EQ3] particularly seek to improve access for people with limited mobility. Policies that seek to limit pollution, such as air pollution or dust etc [Policies EQ4 and EQ5] will help reduce problems for people who have a respiratory complaint. Policy EQ9 sets out an approach to secure public open space which helps people to prevent and manage both physical and mental illnesses.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different race than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who are pregnant/on maternity than the rest of the population.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Positive Low	The provision of public open space on development sites should help to ensure people of all backgrounds, and in all locations, have easy access to recreation space. People who live in deprived areas are more likely to live in environments that have higher pollution, contaminated land, and proliferation to fast food takeaways. The policies in this chapter will help to restrict further problems.

Chapter:	Natural and Heritage Assets	
Summary:	This chapter largely sets out policies which protect Sefton's assets. These include the Coast, Natural Habitats, Public Open Spaces and recreation facilities and Heritage Assets.	
Protected Characteristic:	Score	Comment
Age	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different age than the rest of the population.
Sex	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
Disability/limiting long-term illness	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different ability/mobility than the rest of the population.
Race	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different race than the rest of the population.
Religion/belief	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different religion/belief than the rest of the population.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different sexual orientation than the rest of the population.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who have undergone gender reassignment than the rest of the population.
Pregnancy maternity	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people who are pregnant/on maternity than the rest of the population.
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different marital status than the rest of the population.
Deprived area/background	Neutral	It is not considered that the policies in this chapter will have any different impact on people of different area/background than the rest of the population.

6 KEY FINDINGS

Overall the Local Plan has positive impacts on a number of protected groups. In particular it is judged to have a number of positive benefits to those who have limited mobility. This is due to policies that seek good access to services and facilities and design policies that seek to ensure good access to homes and other buildings. These policies also have a positive impact for pregnant women and people with very young children who would also benefit from improved access.

The policies that seek to improve economic growth and regeneration are considered to have a positive impact on people from a deprived background/area. This group will also benefit from the regeneration policies in the Local Plan and policies that seek to secure affordable homes.

Policies for homes for older people will help that particular group, whilst policies about securing recreation open space will have positive benefits to younger people. The policy that seeks to restrict fast food outlets close to school will be also beneficial to young people.

For many groups it is difficult to identify how they will be impacted differently from the population as a whole. This is not to say there won't be positive benefits from the Local Plan [or in some cases negative impacts] but such impacts will not affect one group more so than another.