



Working together for health & wellbeing

#### **Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis**

Title of service or policy	Local Plan Partial Update – Regulation 19 (Draft Plan) Consultation (August 2021)	
Name of directorate and service	Planning Policy	
Name and role of officers completing the EIA	Cindy Carter: Planning Policy Officer and Richard Daone: Deputy Head of Planning (Policy)	
Date of assessment (update)	July 2021	

Equality Impact Assessment (or 'Equality Analysis') is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on different groups within the community. The main aim is to identify any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and also to identify areas where equality can be better promoted. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so leave blank any that are not applicable**. It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council's website.

1.	Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented.		
	Key questions	Answers / Notes	
1.1	How the service/policy is delivered and by whom     If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations     Intended outcomes	The Local Plan 2011-2029 comprises the Core Strategy (adopted July 2014) and the Placemaking Plan (adopted July 2017). The Core Strategy is a key policy document for Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) that puts in place a strategic planning framework to guide change and development in the District over the plan period and beyond. The Placemaking Plan helps to deliver better places by facilitating the delivery of high quality, sustainable and well-located development supported by the provision of infrastructure.  A Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) is being undertaken to update some policies and provide new policies to the adopted Local Plan primarily to address the climate and nature emergency, replenish housing supply and to support the Council's overarching strategic plan <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/corporate-strategy-2020-2024-survey">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/corporate-strategy-2020-2024-survey</a> Once adopted, the LPPU will be implemented together with the current Local Plan by various Council departments, including planning services, as well as other public service providers and the private sector.	

		Intended outcomes from the LPPU will be monitored together with outcomes from the existing Local Plan in the B&NES Authority Monitoring Report.
1.2	Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example:  Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one?  Is it a national requirement?).	Local Authorities are statutorily required to prepare a Local Plan and update as necessary. Preparation of the LPPU is included in the B&NES Local Development Scheme (LDS), the Council's formal Planning Policy work programme. Plan-making is a statutory process and follows national regulations.
	<ul> <li>How much room for review is there?</li> </ul>	The LPPU is at the Regulation 19 (Draft Plan) stage. Regulation 19 is the second stage of the consultation process when forming a Local Plan and it presents the proposed policies for an area. As set out above, the LPPU is updating some policies and providing new policies to the adopted Local Plan, primarily to address the climate and nature emergency, replenish housing supply and to support the Council's overarching strategic plan. This EqIA considers the updated policies (significant updates) and new policies proposed in the LPPU.
		The Regulation 19 phase of the consultation process provides local communities, interested stakeholders and the development industry with the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy updates to the Local Plan, within a specific remit. The remit for public consultation relates to the 'Test of Soundness' and also includes legal compliance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
		The Plan will be subject to examination by a government appointed Planning Inspector to ascertain its 'soundness'. The independent Planning Inspector will undertake a 'public examination' of the draft LPPU and can make recommendations to further improve it. During the examination process, the Planning Inspector will use the National Planning Policy Framework and comments submitted during the

		Regulation 19 consultation to determine whether the LLPU is sound and legally compliant.
1.3	Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?	The LPPU is being prepared in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 and a number of Council strategies and will facilitate the delivery of Council objectives. The B&NES Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 (adopted February 2020) sets out the Council's overarching strategic plan with the overriding purpose 'to improve people's lives.' The two core policies within the Strategy focus on tackling the climate and nature emergency and giving people a bigger say. To translate the purpose into commitments, three principles have been identified: preparing for the future, delivering for residents and focussing on prevention.  A full review of the Local Plan will take place after the partial update (LPPU) alongside the West of England (WECA) Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) which is scheduled for publication in 2023.

#### 2. Consideration of available data, research and information

Monitoring data and other information should be used to help you analyse whether you are delivering a fair and equal service. Please consider the availability of the following as potential sources:

- **Demographic** data and other statistics, including census findings
- Recent research findings (local and national)
- Results from **consultation or engagement** you have undertaken
- Service user **monitoring data** (including ethnicity, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation and age)
- Information from relevant groups or agencies, for example trade unions and voluntary/community organisations
- Analysis of records of enquiries about your service, or complaints or compliments about them
- Recommendations of external inspections or audit reports

	Key questions	Data, research and information that you can refer to
2.1	What equalities training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?	The planning policy team have received corporate equalities training and EqIA training.  A number of the service deliverers within the Council have received
		corporate equalities training.
2.2	What is the equalities profile of service users?	The LPPU covers the full B&NES Council local authority area. Link to Bath Council equalities data for B&NES
		https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/your-council-and-democracy/local-research-and-statistics/research-library/36266
2.4	Are there any recent customer satisfaction surveys to refer to? What were the results? Are there any gaps? Or differences in experience/outcomes?	The most recent customer satisfaction survey relating to planning policy was undertaken in November 2017. This survey did not monitor the equalities profile of service users.

		Due to the limited scope of the LPPU it is proposed to undertake equalities monitoring of customers/respondents for the full review of the Local Plan.
2.5	What engagement or consultation has been undertaken as part of this EIA and with whom? What were the results?	There has been no separate consultation on the EqIA. However, consultation has taken place on the Local Plan Partial Update Commencement Document (April 2020) and Local Plan Partial Update Options Document (January 2021) and included the Options Draft EqIA in supporting documentation.
2.6	If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equalities considerations within this?	The Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) Regulation 19 (Draft Plan) Consultation and Engagement Strategy sets out the arrangement for consultation with the local community and all other relevant stakeholders in respect of Regulation 19 Consultation. This follows the first round of consultation that took place on the Commencement Document (which outlined the intended scope of the LPPU and process/timetable for its preparation) in April 2020 and subsequent Options Consultation in January 2021. The Strategy meets statutory requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and the Bath and North East Somerset Neighbourhood Planning Protocol. It also takes into consideration the measures implemented by the Government as a result of the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic.
		As defined in the Town and Country Planning Regulations (2012) as amended and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) general consultation bodies include:  • Voluntary bodies, some or all whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area  • Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority's area

•	Bodies which represent the interests of different religious
	groups in the local planning authority's area

- Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

#### 3. Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equalities groups

Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this
General	
An EqIA was undertaken on the draft LPPU Options Document. A number of opportunities were identified to consider equality considerations within policy.	The LPPU once adopted will form part of the Council's adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan includes various policies to support all communities.
This EqIA covers the draft LPPU (Regulation 19 Draft Plan) to consider proposed new policies and amended policies (not including minor amendments), primarily to address the climate and nature	Viability testing has considered the impact of policy/development requirements in the LPPU on wider planning obligations.

		emergency, replenish housing supply and support the Council's overarching strategic plan.  Section 3.12 below sets out proposed policy amendments and new policy proposals within the LPPU together with equality considerations.	
3.1	Sex – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on women and men.	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.2	Pregnancy and maternity	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.3	Gender reassignment – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on transgender people	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.4	Disability - identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on disabled people (ensure consideration both physical, sensory and mental impairments and mental health)	See 3.12, including H7 and Transport Policies	Proposed policy and equality considerations have been highlighted below and proposed actions are set out under Section 4.
3.5	Age – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on different age groups	See 3.12, including H2, H2A, H7 and Transport Policies	Proposed policy and equality considerations have been highlighted below and proposed actions are set out under Section 4.
		Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this

3.6	Race – identify the impact/potential impact on across different ethnic groups	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.7	Sexual orientation - identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual people	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.8	Marriage and civil partnership  – does the policy/strategy treat married and civil partnered people equally?	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.9	Religion/belief – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on people of different religious/faith groups and also upon those with no religion.	See 3.12	No adverse impacts identified.
3.10		See 3.12, including SCR6, H2 and Site Allocations Policies	Proposed policy and equality considerations have been highlighted below and proposed actions are set out under Section 4.
3.11		See 3.12, including Transport Policies	No adverse impacts identified.

	people living in rural		
	communities		
3.12	ALL	Development Management Policies	
		Policy CP3 Renewable Energy (Update) Proposed amendments include providing for local social and community benefits.	
		Policy update to support the climate emergency to benefit all.	
		SCR6 Sustainable Construction Policy for New Build Residential Development (New Policy) The policy proposes that new build	
		residential development will aim to achieve zero emissions by reducing heat and power demand and supplying all energy demand through onsite renewables.	
		Proposed policy to support the climate emergency to benefit all.	
		Opportunities to support residents with rising fuel costs.	
		SCR7 Sustainable Construction Policy for New Build Non-Residential Buildings (New Policy)	
		The policy proposes that new build non- residential major development will maximise carbon reduction through sustainable construction measures.	

Proposed policy to support the climate emergency to benefit all.

#### **SCR8 Embodied Carbon (New Policy)**

The policy proposes that large scale newbuild development submit an Embodied Carbon Assessment.

Proposed policy to support the climate emergency to benefit all.

### SCR9 Electric vehicles charging infrastructure (New Policy)

The policy proposes that electric vehicle charging infrastructure be provided in residential and non-residential development. Further guidance is to be set out in the Transport and Development Supplementary Planning Document.

### Policy NE3: Sites, Species and Habitats (Update)

Proposed amendments to reflect updated requirements as relates to biodiversity.

Proposed updated policy to support the ecological emergency to benefit all.

#### Policy NE3a: Biodiversity Net Gain (New Policy)

Proposed policy requires at 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from major Guidance (SPD) will need to consider the accessibility of EV charging infrastructure and design requirements, including as relates to disabled parking bays.

development and that BNG is also secured in other development.

Proposed policy to support the ecological emergency to benefit all.

### Policy NE5: Ecological Networks and Nature Recovery (Update)

Proposed amendments require that a positive contribution be made to nature recovery networks and for maintaining or creating local ecological networks through habitat creation, protection, enhancement, restoration and /or management.

Proposed updated policy to support the ecological emergency to benefit all.

#### Policy CP7: Green Infrastructure (Update)

Proposed amendments include highlighting Green Infrastructure (GI) as a key delivery mechanism for nature recovery and integral part of creating healthy and sustainable communities. Updates include reference to the Bath River Line as a strategic green infrastructure project providing a high-quality walking and cycling route and spaces for all as part of a wider network of green infrastructure.

Support delivery to consider equality considerations.

Proposed updated policy to support the climate and ecological emergencies and health and well-being to benefit all.

### Policy NE1: Development and Green Infrastructure (Update)

Proposed amendments include the requirements that development design will maximise opportunities for effective and functional GI focussing on the use of nature-based solutions to deliver community benefits. Further amendments include linking to active travel routes where feasible and existing or in-development strategic GI projects where possible.

Proposed updated policy to support the climate and ecological emergencies and health and well-being to benefit all.

#### Policy H2: Houses in Multiple Occupation (Update)

Housing in Multiple Occupation and Purpose-built Student Accommodation policy provides the requirements to support housing to encourage and maintain balanced and mixed communities that support the need of all groups in society.

Policy H2A: Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) (New Policy)

Support delivery to consider equality considerations.

Potential negative impacts of HMO policy may mean housing affordability issues for some equality groups particularly within the Bath area. An EqIA has been undertaken in detail for the proposed draft Housing in Multiple Occupation in Bath Supplementary Planning Document which consider issues in detail and set out proposed actions.

Proposed policy sets out that PBSA of an appropriate scale and design will be permitted on allocated sites where student accommodation use is specifically identified within the Development Principles and elsewhere in the district (except for areas restricted by policy B5) where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for additional student accommodation. Other requirements include that the internal design, layout and size of accommodation and facilities are of an appropriate standard.

Opportunity to meet housing needs of all ages including students.

Purpose-Built Student Accommodation policy provides the requirements to support housing to encourage and maintain balanced and mixed communities that support the need of all groups in society.

### Policy H7: Housing Accessibility (Update)

Proposed amendments require that to provide suitable housing that meets the needs of different groups in the community, including disabled people, older people and families with young children, new residential development must include accessibility standards.

Proposed accessibility standards to be implemented through building control.

Affordable housing to include requirements for M4(2) accessible and adaptable dwellings and M4(3) wheelchair accessible housing (7.8% of dwellings to be built to meet Building Regulation M4(3)(2b) standard and the remainder to M4(2) standard within house, ground floor flats and upper floor flats where a lift is installed, and age restricted homes).

Proposed accessibility standards to be implemented through building control.

Market housing to include requirement for M4(2) accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair adaptable housing (5.6% of dwellings to be built to Building Regulation M4(3) (2a) standard and 48% of the remainder to M4(2) standard.

In exceptional circumstances, factors such as vulnerability to flooding, site topography and where the provision of a lift to dwelling entrances may not be achievable will require that the dwelling be built to M4(1) accessibility standard.

Supports accessible housing standards for all including older people, families with young children and disabled people.

### Policy ED2B: Non-Strategic Industrial Premises (Update)

Proposed amendments seek to strengthen the policy protection of existing non-strategic industrial sites. Supports local employment opportunities, green recovery and climate change emergency to benefit all.

#### Policy ST1: Promoting Sustainable Travel and Healthy Streets (Update)

Proposed amendments include supporting modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport and ensuring that sustainability is embedded into the location, design and planning of new developments. Policy has been updated to include that proposals will be required to provide and enhance facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people that is fit for purpose.

Supports inclusive design access for all.

### Policy ST2A: Active Travel Routes (Update)

Proposed amendments focus on creating active travel routes supporting opportunities to make and enhance strategic connections within urban areas and other key origins and destinations.

Proposed updated policy to support the climate and ecological emergencies and health and well-being to benefit all.

#### Policy ST3: Transport Infrastructure (Update)

Policy has been updated to consider the needs of people of all abilities.

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Proposed amendments highlight that the planning and design of a scheme consider the sustainable transport hierarchy, promoting the use of sustainable modes and that the needs of pedestrians, disabled people, cyclists and horse riders are met.

The policy further proposes that the need for the provision of street furniture which aids security of premises should not adversely affect mobility.

Support inclusive design access for all.

#### Policy ST5: Traffic Management Proposals (Update)

Proposed amendments set out the requirements of traffic management proposals for the centres of Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield and Peasedown St. John and include securing improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people.

Further proposed amendments set out requirements for traffic management schemes in residential areas and include: Reducing the speed of traffic and removing through traffic from unsuitable routes, whilst maintaining access for those who need it. Creating attractive places to enhance the sense of community and improve health and

Policy has been updated to consider the needs of people of all abilities.

wellbeing through re-balancing space towards people and away from vehicles. Supporting disabled people and others with restricted mobility.

Support inclusive design access for all.

#### Policy ST6: Transport Interchange (Update)

Proposed amendments support opportunities to enhance wider interchange functionality in the development of new or expansion of existing Transport Interchange sites, including Park and Ride.
Policy has also been updated to include 'Provision if made for the needs of disabled people and for the safety and security of all users.'

Proposed updated policy to support the climate and ecological emergencies

#### Policy ST7: Transport Requirements for Managing Development (Update)

Proposed amendments include supporting opportunities to travel by sustainable modes. It is further proposed to remove the parking standards from the adopted Local Plan (PMP) and include these in a new Parking SPD, including parking standards for cars, blue badge holders and cycles.

Ensure that relevant SPDs consider equality considerations.

Proposed policy includes that car and cycle parking provision and design must contribute to the aims of the Climate and Ecological Emergency, support creating better and healthier places, and be appropriate to the context of the development and that detailed parking policy guidance and parking standards for all forms of development are set out in the Transport and Developments SPD.

Proposed policy to support the climate emergency to benefit all.

Text to transport policies has been updated to include principles of inclusive design to support the creation of better places that people can live and spend time in, supporting health and well-being.

Inclusive design principles include: Places people at the heart of the design process.

Acknowledges diversity and difference.
Offers choice where a single solution cannot accommodate all users.
Provides for flexibility in use.
Provides building and environments that are convenient and enjoyable to use for everyone.

Further updated text includes reference to relevant national guidance supporting access for all, 'Parking for Disabled People', 'Inclusive Mobility' and BS8300 'Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment'. Text also sets out that 'A transport network with reduced car dominance, where people feel safe and comfortable in public spaces, and with improved bus accessibility, all inherently

support mobility for disabled people. Wider Policies designed to reduce car dominance of our public spaces aim to ensure inclusive mobility, whilst providing access for those who need a car due to disability.' Text within the Transport Chapter also includes that 'Measures to support the shift to more sustainable modes of transport and that improve levels of accessibility to and within Bath, Keynsham, Somer Valley and the Rural Areas will be supported and promoted.' Further, in terms of Sustainable Transport Routes, text sets out that 'Through our place-based transport strategies, other transport planning workstreams and the development management process, we will seek to deliver rural route, both short distance within villages and longer routes, as well as additional urban routes. **Addressing Housing Supply and** Proposed development requirements and **Supporting Communities** design principles propose to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible supporting health and well-being, Bath community cohesion and resilience. **Policy SB8: Western Riverside (Update)** 

Sets out proposed amendments to development requirements and design principles for Western Riverside.

### Policy B3: Strategic Policy for Twerton and Newbridge Riversides (Update)

Proposed amendments include highlighting that Bath Spa University Locksbrook Campus is located within the Newbridge Riverside and that there are significant opportunities for new development increasing activity in creative industries and improving the retention of graduates.

### Policy SB22: Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles for the Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub.

#### Policy SB23: Weston Island (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles for Weston Island.

#### **Policy SB14: Twerton Park (Update)**

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles for Twerton Park.

Policy SB18: Royal United Hospital (Update)

Proposed amendments include that the Council supports the provision of flats (C3) of a range of sizes and types, for use by key workers associated with the RUH. Includes further policy requirements as relates to the site.

#### Policy SB24: Sion Hill (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles for Sion Hill, including affordable housing requirements.

#### Policy SB25: St. Martin's Hospital (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles for St. Martin's Hospital site.

# Policy SB19: The University of Bath at Claverton Down (including Sulis Club) (Update)

Proposed amendments include setting out details of the Development Framework Plan.

### Policy SB26: Park and Ride Sites (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles as relates to the Park and Ride Sites to deliver multi-modal transport interchanges. Proposed development requirements and design principles propose to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible supporting health and well-being, community cohesion and resilience.

#### **Keynsham**

### Policy KE2B: Riverside and Fire Station Site (Update)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles as relates to the Riverside and Fire Station Site.

## Policy KE3C: East of Keynsham – Safeguarded Land KE3C (New Policy)

Proposed amendments set out policy requirements for development for safeguarded land to the East of Keynsham.

## Policy KE3d: East of Keynsham – Safeguarded Land KE3d (New Policy)

Proposed amendments set out policy requirements for development of safeguarded land to the East of Keynsham.

#### **Policy KE5: Treetops (New Policy)**

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles as relates to the Treetops Site.

#### **Somer Valley**

Policy SSV21: Silver Street (New Policy)

Sets out proposed development requirements and design principles as relates to Silver Street.

Proposed development requirements and design principles propose to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible supporting health and well-being, community cohesion and resilience.

Policy SSV9: Old Mill Industrial Estate (Update) Proposed policy amendments to incorporate the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone)	
Policy SSV22 Former Paulton Printworks (Update) Sets out proposed amendments to development requirements and design principles for the remainder of the Former Paulton Printworks.	There will be the requirement to include affordable housing provision on residential site allocations, increasing the provision of affordable housing across B&NES.

There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

# 4. Bath and North East Somerset Council & NHS B&NES Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when
LPPU consultation strategy to include equality considerations within consultation processes.	Consultation to meet the statutory requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning Regulations and		Planning Policy Team supported by George Blanchard.	Consultation on Reg.19 Draft Plan from 27

	Bath and North East Somerset Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (Statement of Community Involvement).		August 2021 to 8 October 2021.
Identified opportunities to support equality considerations within policy guidance (SPDs etc.) and through delivery.	Lead policy officers to support opportunities for equality considerations within policy guidance (SPDs etc.) and through delivery to be taken forward.	Planning Policy Team supported by Louise Murphy and Cindy Carter.	On-going.
Consider comments to Regulation 19 consultation which may highlight further equality considerations.	Review Regulation 19 consultation comments to consider further equality considerations.	Planning Policy lead officers.	Consultation on Reg.19 Draft Plan from 27 August 2021 to 8 October 2021 and post consultation.

#### 5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equalities Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk), who will publish it on the Council's and/or NHS B&NES' website. Keep a copy for your own records.

Signed off by: Simon De Beer (Head of Planning) (Divisional Director or nominated senior officer)

Date: 23rd August 2021