

# **Equality Impact Assessment Form**

## **Section One – Screening**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (2011) covers the following 9 **protected characteristics**:

**Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership** (only in the respect of the requirement of the general duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)

The Council has also chosen to recognise rurality and socio economic status as a protected characteristic.

### **Name of function/policy/procedure/project:**

Statement of Community Involvement

### **Name and telephone number of officer completing assessment:**

Francesca Robinson – 01900 702 776

#### **1. What is the main aim or purpose of the strategy/policy/project?**

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a document prepared by the Council which sets out how the Council's approach to involving and engaging the community and stakeholders in the planning system. This includes both planning policy (the preparation of the Local Plan and other policy documents) and development management (planning applications and other development applications). It also sets out how the Council will support those undertaking neighbourhood planning activity.

It is a legal requirement for the Council to produce the document under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and must be reviewed every five years, in line with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

Allerdale Borough Council's previous Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in March 2010. Therefore in order to be compliant with the Regulations, and to reflect new methods of communication, the current document needs to be revised.

#### **2. List the main activities or objectives of the strategy/policy/project (for strategies list the main policy areas):**

The document seeks to:

- provide an overview of the Council's approach to involving communities

- and stakeholders in the planning processes;
- provide clear guidance about what the Council will and will not do as part of the neighbourhood planning process.

### **3. Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy/policy/project and in what way?**

The document sets out how the Council will engage with communities and stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents, in the determination of planning applications and engaging in the neighbourhood planning process. The main beneficiaries will be all those who wish to engage with the planning systems as it will provide certainty of what the Council is required to do in terms of public engagement. It also provides certainty for those involved with the neighbourhood planning process in outlining what the Council will be responsible for and what will be the responsibility of the Parish/Town Councils/Neighbourhood Forums.

### **4. Use the table below to indicate:**

- Where you think that the strategy/policy/project could have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that the strategy/policy/project could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relations within equality target groups.

Note that you do not have to complete all the boxes. Only those where there is a disproportionate or greater impact either way.

		Potential Impact			
		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Reason
Gender	Women			✓	
	Men			✓	
	Trans-gendered people			✓	
Race	Asian or Asian British people		✓		There may be challenges in engaging different race groups due to language or cultural differences. The Council has details of organisations representing racial groups and they are sent details of consultations when they occur. The Council will also be able to provide documents in an alternative format (e.g. a different language) if it is
	Black or black British people		✓		
	People of mixed race		✓		
	Irish people		✓		
	White people		✓		
	Chinese people		✓		
	Gypsies/travellers		✓		

	Other minority ethnic communities not listed above		✓		requested.
<b>Disability</b>	Physical		✓		If exhibitions/public meetings are held, the Council will ensure that, where possible, the buildings used are accessible.  The Council will be able to provide documents in an alternative format (e.g. large print) if it is requested.
	Sensory			✓	
	Learning			✓	
	Mental health			✓	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			✓	
<b>Age</b>	Older people (50 +)		✓		Older people are less likely to be digitally enabled. Due to advances in technology, the Council's predominant means of consulting on documents will be electronically through the use of email and the Council website. However, the Council will continue to use non-electronic methods to publicise consultations including letters, local press, local meetings and providing hard copies of the documents in all Council offices.  The wider use of social media will hopefully make younger people aware of local planning issues, and encourage them to engage in the planning process.
	Younger people (17-25), and children	✓			
<b>Belief</b>	Faith groups			✓	

<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>				✓	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>				✓	
<b>Rurality</b>			✓		Those residing in rural areas are less likely to be digitally enabled. Due to advances in technology, the Council's predominant means of consulting on documents will be electronically through the use of email and the Council website. However, the Council will continue to use non-electronic methods to publicise consultations including letters, local press, local meetings and providing hard copies of the documents in all Council offices.
<b>Socio-economic status</b>	Low income households			✓	The range of consultation techniques in the SCI aims to reach all sections of the community to enable everyone who wants to be involved and have a say in developing planning policy and planning decisions are made aware of that opportunity.
	Benefit recipients			✓	

**Notes:**

Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

The categories used in the Race section are those used in the 2001 census. Consideration should be given to the needs of specific communities within the broad categories such as Bangladeshi people and to the needs of other communities such as Turkish/Turkish Cypriot, Greek/Greek Cypriot, Italian, Lithuanian and Polish that do not appear as separate categories in the census.

**5. If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:**

Legal                  YES                   NO   
*(not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation? If uncertain see guidance notes or contact Policy & Communication Team or Legal Services)*

Intended?            YES                   NO

Level of impact      HIGH                   LOW

If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended **and/or** of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.

**6. a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance and if so how?**

The table within Question 4 summarises how the Council will make provision for those groups which have been identified as having the potential to be negatively affected. It is considered that by adopting these approaches, no group will be disproportionately affected.

**b) Could you improve the strategy/policy/project's positive impact and if so how?**

It is considered that the current draft of the Statement of Community Involvement gives the maximum positive impact.

Should responses be received from the public consultation on the draft text that suggests ways in which the positive impact could be improved, they will be taken into consideration when amending the document, prior to adoption.

*You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section Two.*

- 7. If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does? How?**

N/A

- 8. Do you have data available which monitors the impact of the policy on minority groups? If not, please explain how you intend to continue monitoring the impact of this strategy/policy/project:**

No. However, should it be brought to the attention of the Council that the application of the Statement of Community Involvement is causing a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics, then the document will be reviewed, and if considered necessary, amended.

Please send an electronic copy of the final completed form to the Policy Team.