

Equality Impact Assessment Form

PART 1 – Description

Directorate: Growth Directorate

Department: Planning Policy & Programmes

Assessment Lead Officer: C. Fox

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Telephone Number: 01925 442734

Name of the Service/Policy/Service Change: Warrington Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Date of Assessment: - August 2021

Status: - Approved

1. Background Information and Context

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan to ensure sufficient land is made available to meet Warrington's future need for new homes and jobs. The Local Plan also provides the opportunity to ensure that future growth is sustainable through the delivery of infrastructure necessary to support an increasing residential and working population. In October 2016, the Council's Executive Board agreed to commence the process of reviewing the existing Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy. This followed the High Court ruling in 2015 which quashed the Plan's housing target. The Council subsequently undertook 2 periods of consultation under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. In total, around 4,500 responses were received to these consultations. These were all taken into account in the preparation of the Previous Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2019).

Consultation on the Previous Proposed Submission Version Local Plan under regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 was held between April and June 2019. In total, around 3,200 responses were received, together with 2 petitions. Having reviewed the responses to the consultation, the Council concluded there was the need to undertake additional evidence base work. This was primarily to provide a greater understanding of the infrastructure required to support the development proposed in the Plan and to demonstrate that the required infrastructure was capable of being delivered in a timely manner. In October 2020 the Council took the decision to pause work on the Local Plan. This was due to the economic and wider impacts of Covid 19 and the Government's proposed amendments to the standard housing methodology. Work re-commenced following confirmation of changes to the Government's housing methodology at the end of 2020. The Council updated its evidence base to re-establish Warrington's future development needs and subsequently re-assessed the Plan's spatial strategy and potential allocation sites.

Given the scale of changes being proposed, the Council has produced an updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (2021) and this will be required to be subject to a further round of consultation prior to submission for independent examination.

Consultation on the revised Proposed Submission Version Local Plan will commence in October 2021 and the EqIA will be published as part of the evidence base documents. The Council will then review all of the representations made during this consultation prior to submitting the Plan for 'Examination in Public' to be carried out by an independent Inspector. It is anticipated the earliest date for the Examination in Public will be summer 2022.

2. Details of the Service/Policy/Service Change?

The revised Proposed Submission Version Local Plan sets out the Council's proposed approach to meeting Warrington's need for new homes and jobs up to 2038. It also identifies the infrastructure which will be required to be delivered to ensure Warrington's growth is sustainable. It closely reflects the objectives of the Council's Warrington Means Business regeneration programme and Warrington's Health and Wellbeing Strategy

3. Links to General Equality Duty and Council Equality Objectives

The Proposed Submission Version Local Plan is able to make a positive contribution to the Council's Equality Objectives – Equality Objectives and Strategy 2020-2024.

https://www.warrington.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/edi_strategy-objectives_2020-2024_final.pdf

PART 2 – Screening

The purpose of this stage is to assess whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full equality impact assessment. It aims to assess if there are any likely impacts on a particular equality group/s or if there are any gaps in knowledge about the likely impact. The outcome from this initial screening will determine whether a full EIA needs to be undertaken at part 3 of this form.

What impact is the **policy going to have on service users? This should include an assessment for each equality group and the type of impact that could occur?**

Equality Group	Type of Impact (Positive, Negative/Adverse, No Impact, Not Sure)	Reason/s
Age (young and older people)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Some of the key updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan objectives and policies relating to housing, open space, recreation and infrastructure provision have the potential to provide a positive impact for young people and older people. Housing policies in particular specify requirements for the provision of first homes and housing for older people on new build sites.
Disability (physical or sensory impairments, and mental health)	Positive Impact (Potential)	Detailed policies relating to housing and design have the potential to provide a positive impact for disabled groups. Policies can require a proportion of new homes to be ‘accessible and adaptable’ and a proportion to be designed to be wheelchair accessible or adaptable for wheelchair use. Policies on sustainable travel and access support connectivity across Warrington. The access for all approach has the potential to ensure everyone, including those with disabilities, is able to navigate Warrington in a pleasant and less challenging and greener environment.
Learning Disability and Autism	Positive Impact (Potential)	Policies in the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan relating to housing, accessibility, open space and infrastructure may have positive benefits for those with learning disabilities and autism.
Gender Reassignment (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to those proposing to undergo, are undergoing or having undergone gender reassignment from the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.

Pregnancy and maternity (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact relating to Pregnancy and Maternity from the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan
Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	Positive Impact (Potential)	The updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan should have a direct impact on the housing needs of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show people. It may also protect existing community facilities used by different ethnic groups within the community and / or provide new facilities.
Religious / Faith Groups	Positive Impact (Potential)	The updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may protect existing community facilities used by different faith groups within the community and / or provide new facilities.
Sex (Gender and gender non-conforming)	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities relating to sex or gender from the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	There is no clear or direct impact on equal opportunities for different sexual orientation groups from the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.
Carers of Children and Dependant Adults	Positive Impact (Potential)	Policies in the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan relating to housing, accessibility, open space and infrastructure may have positive benefits for carers of children and dependant adults. These policies can specify the need for new dwellings to be accessible and adaptable, meet minimum space/room standards, provide outdoor amenity space for dwellings, provide public open space and include accessibility for all in transport proposals.

2. **Is a full customer (equality) impact assessment required? Yes**

Completed by: C Fox

Date: August 2021

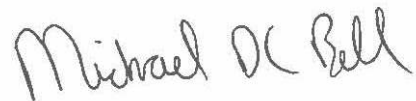
Job Title: Senior Planning Officer

Authorisation

Service Manager Signature: M. Bell

Date: August 2021

Job Title: Planning Policy & Programmes Manager



Michael DC Bell

PART 3 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Assess the impact the policy will have on the lives of people, including particular communities and groups and the workforce (if applicable). Will it meet their needs?

Equality Group	Service User/Customer Profile Please include actual data if it is available.	Type of Impact This can positive, negative (adverse effect) or no impact, please include reasons	Action/s Required. This should include a brief description of the action required to mitigate any negative (adverse) impacts during the commissioning and management of the contract.
			A number of the policies of the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan have been drafted to ensure that they provide positive impacts for young people and older people, addressing issues raised in the PDO EqIA, the previous Proposed Submission Version EqIA and in the respective consultations on these documents.

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Age (young and older people)	<p>The Open Space Audit; and Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategies outline the current levels of provision of open space, playing pitches and built sports facilities and future needs. Specific consideration is given to the needs of young people.</p> <p>The Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (Aug 2021) identifies an affordable housing need of 433 homes per annum up to 2038. The LHNA identifies that 25% of new homes per annum should meet older persons housing needs and that an additional need for 1,053 bed spaces of extra care provision per annum should be provided.</p> <p>The LHNA also identifies an apparent constraint on the formation of younger households due to affordability constraints.</p> <p>The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) confirms the additional school capacity and health facilities that are required to support the level of growth proposed in the draft Local Plan.</p>		<p>Policy DC5 - Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Provision looks to ensure that existing open space is protected and that new open space, play facilities, sport and recreation facilities are provided to support new development. All site allocations have requirements to provide new open space and contribution to recreation facilities. This will help to provide children of all ages with equal opportunities for sport and recreation.</p> <p>Policy DEV2 Meeting Housing Needs provides that affordable homes will be provided on sites of 10 or more dwellings providing 20% affordable on Inner Warrington sites including the town centre and 30% on sites elsewhere. The policy also specifies that on sites over 10 dwellings, purpose built homes for older people should be provided. To support flexibility in housing as occupants age the policy also requires that all new dwellings are built to building regulation M4(2) 'Accessible and Adaptable dwellings' and 10% to M4(2) 'Wheelchair Adaptable'.</p> <p>The policy supports the provision of supported and extra care homes in accessible locations and affordable housing in the case of developments where self-contained units are proposed.</p> <p>25% of affordable homes will need to be First Homes' for new younger entrants into the housing market.</p> <p>Policy INF5 - Delivering Infrastructure seeks to ensure that new development contributes to new and improved infrastructure. This includes providing contributions to expand existing schools or contribute to the provision of new schools. All of the site allocations include a requirement to contribute towards school places with each of the Main Development Areas delivery over</p>

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			<p>1,000 homes required to provide new schools. This will have a positive benefit with young people having easy access to a school in proximity to where they live.</p> <p>Policy DEV4 includes a requirement for all major employment development to maximise access to employment and training to local residents. This will have a positive impact on all age groups, in particular for young people.</p> <p>An identified issue from previous Local Plan consultations was the relatively low response from younger age groups. Additional efforts will again be made to engage younger people during the consultation on the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to age will need to be addressed in any future Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>

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Disability (physical or sensory impairments, learning disability and mental health)	The Local Housing Needs Assessment identifies that 17% of the population of the Borough have a long- term health problem or disability and that around 15% of new households will require wheelchair accessible housing.	Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population	<p>A number of the policies of the revised Proposed Submission Version Local Plan have been drafted to ensure that they provide positive impacts for disabled people, addressing issues raised in the PDO EqIA and the previous Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.</p> <p>Policy Dev 2 requires that all new dwellings are built to building regulation M4(2) 'Accessible and Adaptable dwellings'. In addition 10% of new housing in the policy should meet Building Regulation M4(3) for dwellings to be designed to be wheelchair accessible, or easily adaptable. Dwellings are also expected to meet National Space Standards and provide outdoor amenity space for residents to promote both good physical and mental health for residents in their homes.</p> <p>Policy DC6-Quality of Place seeks to promote good design and equality across the wider environment and public realm as well as within new buildings. This includes equality of access for all to public open space and to new and improved infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to disability will need to be addressed in any future Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>

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Learning Disability and Autism	<p>The Housing Strategy 2018-28 identified (at January 2017) that there were 63 properties with a total of 201 rooms accommodating 185 service users with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The review identifies a significant gap in the provision for young people and the suitability of accommodation as those with learning disabilities grow older.</p>	Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population	<p>Policies in the revised Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may have indirect benefits for people with learning disabilities and autism.</p> <p>In broad terms the Local Plan will support development which caters for an identified need. This is set out in Policy DEV2 Meeting Housing Needs. Dev 2 in specifying minimal space standards for rooms and outdoor amenity space requirements of residents will address living standards and quality of place issues in new accommodation.</p>
Gender Reassignment (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)		No impact	
Pregnancy and maternity (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)		No impact	

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Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Gypsy and Travellers)	<p>Cheshire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (2018) identifies a need to provide 15 pitches for Gypsy & Travellers; 15 plots for Travelling Showpeople; and a Transit site for 5-10 pitches up to 2032.</p> <p>The representation of ethnic groups in Warrington derived from the 2011 Census is provided below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 746 1025 1086"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White; English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British</td> <td>187,968</td> <td>92.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; Irish</td> <td>1,357</td> <td>0.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller</td> <td>66</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White; other White</td> <td>4,601</td> <td>2.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups</td> <td>2,144</td> <td>1.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian/ Asian British</td> <td>4,911</td> <td>2.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British</td> <td>694</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ethnic group</td> <td>487</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Number	%	White; English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	187,968	92.9	White; Irish	1,357	0.7	White; Gypsy or Irish Traveller	66	0.0	White; other White	4,601	2.3	Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups	2,144	1.1	Asian/ Asian British	4,911	2.4	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	694	0.3	Other ethnic group	487	0.2	<p>Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population)</p>	<p>Policy DEV3 Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Show People Provision proposes to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople through the allocation of land for the permanent accommodation needs of these communities. Specific criteria are provided to assess applications for permanent and transit sites. Between 2021 and 2032 a minimum of an additional 2 permanent pitches for gypsies and traveling show people; 5 permanent pitches for travelling show people ; and 5-10 transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers will be provided.</p> <p>Policy INF5 - Delivering Infrastructure provides the opportunity to provide additional community facilities. This may provide facilities for use by specific ethnic groups.</p> <p>Policy DEV5 – Retail and Leisure Needs, seeks to protect existing community facilities, which may include facilities used by specific ethnic groups.</p> <p>An identified issue from previous Local Plan consultations was the relatively low response from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Additional efforts will therefore again be made to engage BME communities during the consultation on the updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan will provide strategic planning policies. Additional consideration to equalities issues relating to race will need to be addressed in any future Neighbourhood Plans and any Supplementary Planning Documents.</p>
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Sex (men, women and gender non-conforming)		No impact																															
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Carers of Children and Dependant Adults	<p>The Local Housing Needs Assessment (2019) recognises that an ageing population will lead to a greater proportion of elderly people with disabilities, and this is likely to result in an increase in dependent adults, in addition to dependent children in the Borough.</p>	Positive Impact (Potential – subject to Local Plan addressing impacts of increasing population)	<p>Policies in the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan may have indirect benefits for carers of children and dependent adults.</p> <p>Policy DEV2-Meeting Housing Needs requires that all new dwellings are built to building regulation M4(2) 'Accessible and Adaptable dwellings'. In addition 10% of new housing in the policy should meet Building Regulation M4(3) for dwellings to be designed to be wheelchair accessible, or easily adaptable. Dwellings are also expected to meet National Space Standards and provide outdoor amenity space for residents to promote good physical and mental health for residents.</p>																														

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