



# Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti- Poverty Officer at [equalities@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cambridge.gov.uk) or phone 01223 457046. Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to [equalities@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cambridge.gov.uk) for checking. For advice on consulting on equality impacts, please contact Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, ([graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk) or 01223 457044).

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service:

Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)

The committee report and draft SPD will be available on the following page of the Council's website: [Agenda for Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee June 2019 - Cambridge Council](#)

What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

The SPD has been prepared to provide guidance on the implementation of policies related to climate change and sustainable design and construction in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 (and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018). For the Cambridge Local Plan, it provides guidance on the following policies:

#### [Section 4: Responding to climate change and managing resources](#)

- Policy 28: Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use;
- Policy 30: Energy Efficiency Improvements in Existing Dwellings;
- Policy 31: Integrated water management and the water cycle;
- Policy 32: Flood Risk
- Policy 33: Contaminated land
- Policy 34: Light pollution control
- Policy 35: Protection of human health from noise and vibration
- Policy 36: Air quality, odour and dust

#### [Section 7: Protecting and enhancing the character of Cambridge](#)

- Policy 69: Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- Policy 70: Protection of priority species and habitats
- Policy 63: Works to a Heritage Asset to Address Climate Change

Guidance in the SPD takes the form of details of the documents that need to be submitted with planning applications and the information to be included in those documents. Proformas to be used to provide information such as carbon calculations and air quality information are included alongside a sustainability checklist to be submitted with applications to demonstrate how meeting policy requirements has been integrated into the design of new developments.

#### 4. Responsible Service

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

#### 5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- Residents of Cambridge City
- Visitors to Cambridge City
- Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (for example, City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

People who work in the city but do not live here.

#### 6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this? (Please tick)

- New
- Major change
- Minor change

#### 7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)

- No
- Yes (Please provide details):

The SPD has been written with input from officers across the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service as well as officers in Environmental Health and the Streets and Open Spaces team.

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

The draft for consultation will be considered at Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee on the 25 June 2019.

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Reference has been made to the Equalities Impact Assessment prepared for the Cambridge Local Plan, the policies from which the SPD provides detailed technical guidance. Some consideration has also been given to the Climate just website:

[Climate Just](#)

Public consultation on the SPD will take place between July and September 2019.

There will be equalities monitoring of respondents as part of this consultation process.

Official statistics on Fuel Poverty: [Fuel poverty statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Cabinet Office (2017), 'Race Disparity Audit: Summary Findings from the Ethnicity Facts and Figures Website': [Race Disparity Audit](#)

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive / negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age

Note that this refers to any group of people of a particular age (for example, 32-year-olds) , or within a particular age range (for example, 16-24 year-olds) – in particular, please consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk.

The SPD seeks to ensure that all new housing built in the Greater Cambridge area is built to be energy efficient and utilises renewable energy, which, if correctly implemented, should have a positive impact on residents through reducing energy bills, helping to address fuel poverty for residents moving into new homes.

Older people (as reported by Age UK over the years) are especially likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Where older people and children have long-term health conditions, these can be worsened by the effects of fuel poverty. Single parents and their children are most likely to be affected by fuel poverty compared to other household sizes, as 26.4% struggle to afford to pay their bills.

#### (b) Disability

Note that a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The consultation documents for this policy will be made available in alternative formats where required, upon request, such as in large print or braille.

The SPD seeks to ensure that all new housing built in the Greater Cambridge area is built to be energy efficient and utilises renewable energy, which, if correctly implemented, should have a positive impact on residents through reducing energy bills, helping to address fuel poverty for residents moving into new homes. Long-term health conditions, including mental health, could be caused or exacerbated by effects of living in fuel poverty so the SPD could have a positive impact related to disability.

#### (c) Gender reassignment

No equality impacts have been identified at this stage that is specific to this equality group.

#### (d) Marriage and civil partnership

No equality impacts have been identified at this stage that is specific to this equality group.

#### (e) Pregnancy and maternity

The consultation process from July to September 2019 has been extended in order to allow for the school holiday period. This will have a positive impact related to maternity by providing people with children opportunity to feedback.

The SPD seeks to ensure that all new housing built in the Greater Cambridge area is built to be energy efficient and utilises renewable energy, which, if correctly implemented, should have a positive impact on residents through reducing energy

bills, helping to address fuel poverty for residents moving into new homes. Single parents and their children are most likely to be affected by fuel poverty compared to other household sizes, as 26.4% struggle to afford to pay their bills.

(f) Race

Note that the protected characteristic 'race' refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

The consultation documents will be translated upon request.

National research has found that ethnic minority groups' housing tends to be of lower quality, especially among households of Pakistani origin. Poor quality housing that is low in energy efficiency can cause fuel poverty. The SPD could have a positive impact for some ethnic groups then as it seeks to ensure that all new housing built in the Greater Cambridge area is built to be energy efficient and utilises renewable energy, which, if correctly implemented, should have a positive impact on residents through reducing energy bills, helping to address fuel poverty for residents moving into new homes.

(g) Religion or belief

No equality impacts have been identified at this stage that is specific to this equality group.

(h) Sex

No equality impacts have been identified at this stage that is specific to this equality group.

(i) Sexual orientation

No equality impacts have been identified at this stage that is specific to this equality group.

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular – please consider the impact of any changes on low income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty

Those on low income can often find themselves in poor quality housing, which can often be costly to heat leading to fuel poverty and a range of associated physical and mental health impacts. Fuel poverty is experienced by 1 in 10 households nationally. The SPD seeks to ensure that all new housing built in the Greater Cambridge area is built to be energy efficient and utilises renewable energy, which, if correctly

implemented, should have a positive impact on residents through reducing energy bills, helping to address fuel poverty for residents moving into new homes.

Following feedback on some new developments in the area, guidance has been included in the SPD on communal heating systems and the use of Codes of Best Practice to ensure that where communal heating systems are used, pricing for customers is fair and does not contribute to fuel poverty.

Climate impacts and extreme weather events can affect anyone, but some people have the potential to be more affected than others. The SPD seeks to ensure that all new development, including new social housing, incorporate measures to enable new and existing communities to be able to adapt to climate impacts such as heat waves and flooding.

## 11. Action plan –

New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

The Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD will go through the following stages:

- Consultation (July – September 2019)
- Adoption – January 2020
- Implementation – January 2020 onwards

The policies for which the SPD provides guidance, will be monitored through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report, giving us an opportunity to reflect on whether planning policies related to climate change and sustainable construction are being successfully implemented and whether any changes to policy or guidance are required. Such changes would need to be considered as part of work on the Joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

The consultation will be made available in alternative formats such as in other languages, braille or large print, upon request. The other the proposed consultation arrangements will be as follows:

- Letters / e-mails including consultation details to be sent to statutory and general consultees.
- The draft SPD to be made available to view at the following locations:
  - At the council's Customer Service Centre at Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY from 9am-5.15pm Monday to Friday.
  - South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA;
- An online consultation system will be available on the Council's website in order for people to respond directly via the internet. Hard copies of the response form will be made available at the Council's Customer Service Centre for those who do not have access to the internet.

## 12. Do you have any additional comments?

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## 13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Emma Davies, Senior Sustainability Officer (Design and Construction).

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: n/a

Date of EqIA sign off: 5 June 2019

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment:

All EqIAs need to be sent to Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer. Has this been sent to Helen Crowther?

Yes

No

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: July 2019