

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESMENT

The council carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices.

Throughout this document, policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery or service.

The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process before any decisions are made.

Policies are developed and reviewed using a consultative approach involving relevant internal and external stakeholders. Officers must consider what action needs to be taken to help overcome or minimise any disadvantages that people who share a protected characteristic will experience in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

Name of policy:	Adopted Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036
Lead officer name	Anne Storah
Job title	Principal Planner (Forward Planning)
Service area	Planning Unit
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Date Assessment commenced	The first published assessment accompanied the Council report on the Regulation 19 consultation (dated 26 June 2018) although work started prior to this.
Date assessment completed	26 November 2021 – following receipt of the Inspectors' Report

The main aims/objectives of this policy are:

The Local Plan is the development plan for Rossendale - identifying development requirements for the next 15 years, allocating sites to meet these requirements (especially for housing and employment), protecting land and providing planning policies to guide development.

An EIA was undertaken to support the emerging Local Plan (Regulation 19 version) which was approved by members on 11 July 2018 for consultation and submission for examination. During the examination the Inspectors identified a number of main modifications to the Local Plan. The purpose of this EIA is to assess the implications of these changes with regard to equalities and protected characteristics. This EIA was submitted as one of the background documents to the Examination.

The Local Plan policies will be monitored and it is expected that a review will be undertaken within 5 years to assess if the policies contained in the Local Plan require amendment.

The Local Plan was examined by independent Planning Inspectors. They noted in their Report (issued 19 November 2021 though not received til later) that "We have had due regard to the aims expressed in S149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This has included consideration of several matters

during the examination including the provision of traveller sites to meet need and requirements for accessible and adaptable housing”.

Indicate the status of the policy or decision

New/proposed Modified/adapted Existing

Indicate protected characteristics have been assessed

Age Disability Gender reassignment
 Religion/belief Sexual orientation Sex
 Pregnancy/maternity Race Marriage or civil partnership

1. State any positive or negative impact on the protected characteristic(s) (added additional rows if needed)

Protected characteristic	Positive/Negative/ No impact	How does it impact?
Age (older persons)	Positive – no change to the Policy	<p>The Local Plan contains a policy supporting housing for older people and encourages at least 20% to be specifically tailored to meet the needs of elderly or disabled residents or be easily adaptable in line with the Optional Standards.</p> <p>The Design Policy also refers to the needs of older people and those with disabilities, and for their needs to be taken into account in Transport Assessments.</p>
Age (younger persons)	Positive – no change to the Policy	<p>The Local Plan supports additional new housing to meet future needs over the longer period 2019-2036, which includes housing for families (HS1) and requires 30% to be affordable, which will in particular benefit younger adults.</p> <p>The Plan retains a Policy on Open Space and Playing Pitches in new developments. This policy benefits not just children but this group will benefit the most. More detailed guidance will be provided in a Supplementary Planning Document.</p> <p>The Hot Food Takeaway Policy has been amended so that applications for new hot food takeaways are not in wards where more than 15% of Year 6 pupils or 10% of Reception class age pupils are classified by Public Health England as obese; and opening hours to be restricted at lunch and school closing times if</p>

		within 400m of a secondary school. (The policy had previously referred to primary schools but this has now been deleted).
Disability	Positive	<p>The Local Plan contains a policy supporting housing for older people and encourages at least 20% to be specifically tailored to meet the needs of elderly or disabled residents or be easily adaptable in line with the Optional Standards.</p> <p>The Design Policy also refers to the needs of people with disabilities, and for their needs to be taken into account in Transport Assessments.</p>
Race	Negative	<p>Consideration was given to accommodate at least four transit pitches on a site at Barlow Bottoms in Facit. Four additional pitches are also required which can be met through intensifying two existing sites in the Borough. Towards the end of the Plan period there may be a need for two additional pitches; this will be identified in an update of the Gypsy and Traveller Area Assessment and considered within a Local Plan review as necessary. Despite several attempts to relocate the transit pitches no site has been found suitable. As a result a modification has been made to ensure a negotiated stopping policy will be implemented identifying suitable stopping places.</p> <p>A new criteria-based policy is also to be introduced for transit sites or temporary stopping places.</p> <p>Although a transit site is no longer to be allocated following the Examination in Public of the Local Plan, it is nevertheless expected that the approach taken will ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are not affected negatively by these policies in the Local Plan.</p>
Sex	Positive	<p>Although not necessarily limited to women policies have been written taking account of crime and personal safety. Examples include:</p> <p>Policy ENV1 (High quality development in the Borough) expects new developments to take account of the local area's character and appearance including <i>minimising opportunity for crime and malicious threats, and maximising natural surveillance and personal and public safety.</i></p> <p>Policy TR2 (Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways) expects new non-car routes to be located and designed to minimise the risk of crime.</p>

All other protected characteristics	No impact	No specific land use implications known
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2. Explain and give examples of any evidence/data used (add additional rows if needed)

Evidence	How does this have an impact on the protected characteristic?
The Gypsy and Traveller Assessment (GTAA) (2016)	The Evidence Base for the Local Plan in particular has provided key information. For example, The Gypsy and Traveller Assessment (GTAA) (2016) identified a need to provide a transit site for Gypsies and Travellers to legally stop over for a temporary period.
Office of National Statistics	Information from the Office for National Statistics and the Primary Care Network identified that Rossendale's population is ageing and so the need to ensure accessible housing was identified.
Public Health data	Public Health data identified a high child obesity rate which has influenced the Hot Food takeaway policy.
Consultation	Consultation with residents throughout Rossendale, developers and other stakeholders including statutory consultees has taken place at numerous stages in the development of the Local Plan, no particular issues were raised relating to equality, although Public Health at Lancashire assisted with the drafting of the Hot Food Takeaway policy.

3. Outcome of EIA

What course of action does this EIA suggest you take?	Please indicate
Outcome 1- The EIA has not identified any potential for negative impact on the protected characteristics. Progress to EIA approval – section 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 2- The EIA has identified a possibility for negative impact on the protected characteristics. An EIA Action Plan must be completed to mitigate the negative impact – section 4 before approval section 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. EIA action plan

Based on the above impact assessment, findings/evidence and outcomes identified, please complete the Action Plan below. The action plan should address:

- Any gaps in findings/evidence research including any consultation or engagement regarding the policy and its actual/potential impacts
- How you will address any gaps
- What practical changes/action that will help reduce any negative impacts identified
- What practical changes/action that will help enhance any positive contributions to equality

Negative impact identified	Action required	Lead officer	To be completed
Provision of a transit site for Gypsies and Travellers	As stated in the Inspectors Report : <i>“the Council ... will seek to implement a negotiated stopping policy to meet identified transit needs. This would be adopted as Council policy and involve working with partners to identify suitable stopping places. Alongside this, a new criteria-based section is proposed in Policy HS18 to allow future potential transit sites or temporary stopping places that come forward over the plan period to be effectively dealt with.”</i>	Mike Atherton	31 December 2022

Monitoring and reviewing the effect of the policy

Please state how you will monitor the impact and effect of this policy

The Local Plan policies will be monitored annually through the Authority Monitoring Report. Specific targets have been set for some policies, such as the provision of a transit site, and the number of negotiated stopping agreements provided with triggers set to indicate when and what action should be taken by the Council.

5. EIA approval (to be completed by the relevant Head of Service/Director)

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team: (date)
- Published on council website: (date)

Signed: (Head of Service/Director) (date)