

Community Impact Assessment

(Incorporating equality analysis and health considerations)

V2.0

Name of Matter Assessed:

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2): Sites Consultation

Who will make the decision:
(e.g. Cabinet/Board etc)

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the matter:

The process of a sites consultation has been informed through meetings with the Cabinet Advisory Group. The Sites Consultation paper and the accompanying appendices have been developed by the Planning Policy Team and informed through consultation with Development Management, Asset Management; Developers; Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums; statutory consultees (as listed in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) and non-statutory consultees

What is it:

A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a document that summarises how the council has had due regard to the public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010) in decision-making. This document can also be used to consider health and narrowing health inequalities (Health and Care Act 2012)

When to assess:

A CIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy or function. The assessment should be proportionate; a major financial decision will need to be assessed more closely than a minor policy change.

Due Regard:

To 'have due regard' means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities the council must consciously consider the need to do the things set out in the general equality duty: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

In relation to health, we need to consider the potential short term and long term implication of for decisions that we take to support the Health and Wellbeing agendas.

How much regard is 'due' will depend on the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the aims in the general equality duty to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard required by the duty. We need to make sure that we understand the potential impact of decisions on people with different protected characteristics and also need to consider this information before and as decisions are being made. This will help us to reduce or remove unhelpful impacts and inequalities

Proposal Name:

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2): Sites Consultation

Aims/Objectives and purpose of the policy/service/function

Aims and objectives:

To meet the development requirements of the Borough, the Local Plan (Part 2) (NLP2) will need to allocate land for development, including land for housing and employment. The aim of the consultation is to collect views on the potential future uses of available site options. This will include gathering views on which sites would be appropriate for development, which sites would be least appropriate and which sites should be protected.

Key actions:

The Sites Consultation will seek the views of stakeholders, including the public, community groups and the development industry, about the suitability of a series of sites for housing and employment development for further consideration in producing the Draft Local Plan (Part 2).

Expected outcomes:

Responses to the consultation will help to inform the Council's decisions about which sites to consider for further investigation in the process of producing the Local Plan (Part 2).

Who will be affected and how:

All who live and work in Northampton as it will have implications for which sites are allocated for housing and employment in the borough and the amount of development that can take place.

Approximately how many people will be affected:

This is difficult to quantify. The population of Northampton is over 225,000¹. Travel to work statistics² show a net inflow of over 12,100 people commuting to work in Northampton. Some or all of these people could be affected by contents of the NLP2 which will contain not only site allocations but policies relating to housing, employment and leisure opportunities.

¹ ONS Data 2016 mid-year census estimate

² ONS Data Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/WU03UK/chart/1132462266>

Expected date of decision:

13 th September 2017

Scope/focus of the assessment:**Please outline the scope and focus of the assessment:**

The scope and focus of the assessment is about the likely equalities and public health impacts that will occur as a result of the Sites Consultation.

Community Screening Outcome

Will the proposal:	Yes/No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment or victimisation	No
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	No
Contribute towards health improvements or inequalities	Yes

Relevant data and/or research**Outline the information and research that has informed the decision:**

<p>The National Planning Policy Framework states that each Local Planning Authority should prepare a Local Plan for its area. On 9 September 2015 Cabinet agreed a report setting out the importance of having an up to date Local Plan. The first stage of the process was public consultation on the scope of the Plan. This invited representations between 27/04/2016 to 10/06/2016 on the Local Plan Issues Paper, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the Statement of Community Involvement as well as the Land Availability Assessment methodology and a call for sites.</p>

<p>These representations were analysed and used to inform the Options Consultation Paper. The Options Consultation Paper set out the Council's strategy for the NLP2 including a Vision to 2029 and the Objectives to underpin future development and regeneration activity across the Borough. The Paper was consulted on between 21/09/16 and 02/11/16. The findings of this second stage consultation have been analysed and some have been taken through to inform the Sites Consultation where the more qualitative responses will inform policy development in future stages of plan development.</p>

Sources and key findings:

Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out which consultation bodies need to be included in a Local Plan consultation. These include bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups as well as different religious groups and groups representing the interests of disabled persons within the LPA area.

Northampton Statement of Community Involvement (2017) reiterates the need for those consultation bodies set out in Regulation 2 to be contacted as part of a Local Plan consultation. It adds that community engagement should reach out to those voices seldom heard to be inclusive, fair and representative in the plan making process.

The Local Plan Contacts Database is an internally managed and maintained (in accordance with data protection) database of individuals and organisations who have expressed an interest in being consulted on issues relating to the Local Plan.

Those groups referred to in Regulation 2 groups are principally consulted in two ways as part of a Local Plan consultation. Firstly through the Council's Residents Panel and Community Forums who represent women; youth; pensioners; diverse communities; disabled people and the LGBT & Q community. Secondly, the Local Plan Contacts Database contains organisations who represent groups with the protected characteristics for example Northamptonshire Association for the Blind; Stonewall (LGBT people); Age UK Northamptonshire; Northampton Interfaith Forum.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics:

The Sites Consultation will, in itself, have a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics.

Current service provision

What are you doing now:

This consultation is part of the process of producing the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), which will replace the saved policies of the Northampton Local Plan 1997 and review the policies of the Central Area Action Plan 2013.

Rationale for change

What will you do if/when changes are agreed/introduced:

The Sites Consultation will not, of itself, necessitate any changes. It will, however, inform the allocation of sites and policies in the Local Plan Part 2.

Identification of affected groups/individuals

List the groups/individuals that may be affected by the proposal:

All residents, workers and visitors to Northampton could be affected, including people with protected characteristics.

Assess and/or undertake Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

No, the decision to carry out the Sites Consultation is a matter for the Cabinet. Officers have recommended that this consultation takes place on the basis of their understanding of legislation, regulations and legal advice in relation to the production of the Local Plan (Part 2).

What were the results of the consultation:

NA – see response to question ‘Has there been specific consultation on this decision’

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal:

NA – see response to question ‘Has there been specific consultation on this decision’

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics:

NA – see response to question ‘Has there been specific consultation on this decision’

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

It is the role of Planning staff to carry out this type of consultation. The Sites Consultation will not affect the staff profile.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

The NLP2 will seek to address the supply of sites in the Borough to deliver more homes, maintain and expand employment opportunities, enhance the Town centre, protect the historic and natural environment and provide detailed development management policies. As such, this has the potential to benefit most sections of the community.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

The Sites Consultation is of relatively low relevance for the protected characteristics and has neutral impacts.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None

Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	Low	Neutral
Disability	Low	Neutral
Gender reassignment	Low	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Low	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	Low	Neutral
Race	Low	Neutral
Religion or belief	Low	Neutral
Sex	Low	Neutral
Sexual orientation	Low	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	Low	Neutral

**when assessing relevance and impact, make it clear who the assessment applies to within the characteristic category. For example, a decision may have high relevance for young people, but low relevance for older people; it may have a positive impact on women but a neutral impact on men*

Please provide details:

The Local Plan (Part 2) has the potential to benefit most sections of the community. This Sites Consultation stage of the process is seeking views about whether or not sites should be investigated further in the process of producing the Local Plan (Part 2). As such, it has a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics.

Mitigation of adverse impact on staff/service/people

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

NA

Publication of results

This Impact Assessment will be published on the Council's website

Monitoring and review

Please give details of how the changes will be monitored, and when the next review is due:

The next Community Impact Assessment relating to the process of producing the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) is envisaged to be that relating to the Draft Stage of the Local Plan Part 2 when that goes out to public consultation.

Conclusion

There should be no unlawful discrimination arising from the decision.

Please state how "Due regard" has been taken to the equality duty, and public health considerations:

In producing the Sites Consultation, no decisions have been made about which sites or how many sites should be included in the Local Plan Part 2. As such, it does not have any direct impact on the equality duty or public health. The responses to the Sites Consultation will help to inform the Draft Local Plan (Part 2) which will contain allocations and policies. This will be the subject of a future Community Impact Assessment.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The Sites Consultation will have a neutral impact on protected characteristics and public health. Of itself it is of low relevance. However, it will help to inform the Draft Local Plan (Part 2) which will contain policies and allocations which might be of greater relevance.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Thornhill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a rectangular box.

Date:

29th August 2017