

Equality Impact Assessment/ Analysis (EqIA)

Section	Planning Policy
Officer(s) responsible for the screening	Sue Nash
Name of Strategy/ Policy/ Service being assessed	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
Date of this assessment	November 2018
Is this is a new or existing policy/service?	Once approved, the SCI will supersede the existing 2014 SCI and be a statutory part of the Council's Development Plan framework.
If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	The final version of the EqIA of the Core Strategy was published in June 2016. This can be downloaded from the following link: www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy
Signature of responsible officer (to be signed after the EqIA has been completed)	



Form A1

INITIAL SCREENING FOR STRATEGIES/POLICIES/FUNCTIONS FOR EQUALITIES RELEVANCE TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION, PROMOTE EQUALITY AND FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS



High relevance/priority



Medium relevance/priority



Low or no relevance/ priority

Note:

1. Tick coloured boxes appropriately, and depending on degree of relevance to each of the equality strands
2. Summaries of the legislation/guidance should be used to assist this screening process

Business Unit/Services:	Relevance/Risk to Equalities																										
	Gender			Race			Disability			Sexual Orientation			Religion/Belief			Age			Gender Reassignment			Pregnancy/Maternity			Marriage/Civil Partnership (only for staff)		
State the Function/Policy /Service/Strategy being assessed:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Core Strategy			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 1. Introduction			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 2. Development Plan Documents			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 3. Supplementary Planning Documents			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 4. Neighbourhood Plans			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 5. Community Infrastructure Levy			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 6. Planning Applications			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
SCI – Section 7. Permission in Principle			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓			✓
Are your proposals likely to impact on social inequalities e.g. child poverty for example or our most geographically disadvantaged communities? If yes please explain how. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) seeks to have a positive impact on social inequalities by setting out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken with communities across the District.																							YES				
Are your proposals likely to impact on a carer who looks after older people or people with disabilities? If yes please explain how.																							NO				

Form A2 – Details of Plan/ Strategy/ Service/ Policy

Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining	
(1) What are the aims and objectives of Plan/Strategy/Service/Policy?	<p>The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to set out how the Council intends to engage with communities through the planning process. The SCI is structured into separate sections and this EqIA relates to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Section 1 IntroductionSection 2. Development Plan DocumentsSection 3. Supplementary Planning DocumentsSection 4. Neighbourhood PlansSection 5. Community Infrastructure LevySection 6. Planning ApplicationsSection 7. Permission in Principle
(2) How does it fit with Stratford District Council's wider objectives?	<p>The Corporate Strategy identifies the Council's long term priorities serving the residents and communities of the District. It sets out how we will lead the District forward between 2015 and 2019. The production of the SCI supports all three aims of the District Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-2019. Planning decisions affect land and buildings and so by setting out how local communities, businesses and other interested parties have the opportunity to engage in the planning process, the SCI is a key tool in enabling the Council to work together with stakeholders to help achieve the Strategy's key objectives.</p>

<p>(3) What are the expected outcomes?</p>	<p>The SCI provides certainty to both applicants and the community by setting out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken with communities across the District. Ultimately, the application of the SCI should lead to better development outcomes for local communities and the District as a whole by setting out how engagement in the planning process can be undertaken.</p> <p>Section 1: Introduction – advises of the legislative background and provides an overview of the range of consultation methods that the Council will employ appropriate to the stage and type of consultation.</p> <p>Section 2: Development Plan Documents – provides information on the process for producing a Development Plan Document and the engagement that will take place at the various stages.</p> <p>Section 3: Supplementary Planning Documents - provides information on the process for producing a Supplementary Planning Document and the engagement that will take place at the various stages.</p> <p>Section 4: Neighbourhood Plans – advises of the various stages involved in the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the levels of assistance and support that is provided by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.</p> <p>Section 5: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – sets out the process for the production of a CIL Charging Schedule and the engagement that will take place at the various stages.</p> <p>Section 6: Planning Applicants – provides information on the levels of engagement that will be undertaken at the various stages of the process for determining planning applications.</p> <p>Section 7: Permission in Principle – advises of the process involved in an application for Permission in Principle and the levels of engagement that will be undertaken at each stage.</p>
<p>(4) Which of the groups with protected characteristics is this intended to benefit?</p>	<p>The SCI is not intended to benefit any one particular group. As such, the SCI is relevant to everyone who will live, work and visit the District.</p>
<p><u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u></p>	
<p>(1) What type and range of evidence or information have you used to help you make a judgement about the plan/ strategy/ service/ policy?</p>	<p>The updated SCI is informed by legislation and national guidance, along with good practice guidance on consultation techniques and methods. Four weeks public consultation on the draft SCI ended 24 October 2018 and Officers have been analysing the various comments received and amending the SCI accordingly.</p>

<p>(2) Have you consulted on the plan/ strategy/ service/policy and if so with whom?</p>	<p>A draft version of the SCI was subject to a four week consultation period from 25 September to 24 October 2018. The consultation comprised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specific page on the District Council’s website providing links to the consultation documents and comments form; www.stratford.gov.uk/SCI • Email and letters sent to Parish Councils in the local area, agents and developers, and agencies and organisations. • Paper copies of the Draft SPD made available for inspection at the District Council offices and libraries in the local area; • A discussion workshop held at the District Council offices on 23 August 2018 involving local elected Members and Parish Councils. 		
<p>(3) Which of the groups with protected characteristics have you consulted with?</p>	<p>The consultation set out above has been open to all interested parties.</p> <p>Specific groups consulted with included Senior Care Action Network (SCAN), Coventry and Warwickshire MIND, Warwickshire Race and Equality Partnership, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Women’s Business Council, Gypsy Council and National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups.</p>		
<p><u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u></p>			
<p>(1) From your data and consultations is there any adverse or negative impact identified for any particular group which could amount to discrimination?</p> <p>If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.</p>	<p>RACE</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all equality groups.</p>	<p>DISABILITY</p> <p>The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of methods including electronic, written and face to face engagement. This approach enables all age groups to be able to engage in the planning process.</p>	<p>GENDER</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all gender groups.</p>

	MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	AGE	GENDER REASSIGNMENT
	The legislative requirements relating to this group are only relevant in the context of the District Council's role as an employer and are not therefore relevant to the EqIA for the SCI.	The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of methods including electronic, written and face to face engagement. This approach enables all age groups to be able to engage in the planning process.	The SCI is inclusive of all gender groups.
(2) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?	RELIGION/BELIEF	PREGNANCY / MATERNITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
	The SCI is inclusive of all religions.	The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of methods including electronic, written and face to face engagement. This approach enables all age groups to be able to engage in the planning process.	The SCI is inclusive of all gender groups.
(3) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact? (This should form part of your action plan under Stage 4.)	No adverse impacts in relation to the identified groups are anticipated.		
(4) How does the plan/strategy/service/policy contribute to promotion of equality? If not what can be done?	No negative or adverse impacts are anticipated; therefore no actions are needed.		
	The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken with communities across the District and therefore contributes to equality by enabling all people to be aware of how they are able to engage with the various aspects of the planning process.		

<p>(5) How does the plan/strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not what can be done?</p>	<p>One of the types of consultation methods set out in the SCI is face to face engagement such as events, drop ins and informal meetings. This type of consultation will promote good relations between different groups across the District.</p>
<p>(6) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?</p>	<p>The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of methods including electronic, written and face to face engagement. This approach enables all groups to be able to engage in the planning process thus reducing barriers to engaging with the planning process.</p>

<p><u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review & Monitoring</u></p>	
<p>If No Further Action is required then go to – Review & Monitoring</p> <p>(1) Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements which can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.</p>	<p>No Further Action is required</p>
<p>(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan</p>	<p>A Monitoring Report is produced by the District Council on an annual basis to review the effectiveness of policies and proposals in the Development Plan. The SCI will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains in accordance with national legislation and guidance.</p>