

Equality Impact Assessment/ Analysis (EqIA)

Section	Planning Policy
Officer(s) responsible for the screening	Louisa Slator
Name of Strategy/ Policy/ Service being assessed	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
Date of this assessment	June 2020
Is this is a new or existing policy/service?	Once approved, the SCI will supersede the existing 2018 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)	



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, taking into account the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on shielding households and vulnerable people, including those without access to the internet.	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

<u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u>	
(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> <p>Section 1 Introduction Section 2. Development Plan Documents Section 3. Supplementary Planning Documents Section 4. Neighbourhood Plans Section 5. Community Infrastructure Levy Section 6. Planning Applications Section 7. Permission in Principle</p>
(2) How does it fit with Stratford District Council's wider objectives?	<p>The Council Plan identifies the Council's long term priorities serving the residents and communities of the District. The SCI is consistent with the wider objectives of the Council Plan, in particular the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Enhancing the quality Stratford-on-Avon as a place</i>– it supports the aim to make Stratford-on-Avon as an excellent place to live, work, learn, visit and invest. - <i>Putting residents and communities centre stage</i> – it assists people in being able to influence decisions in their local area.

<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>

<u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u>	
(1) What type and range of evidence or information have you used to help you make a judgement about the plan/ strategy/ service/ policy?	The updated SCI is informed by legislation and national guidance, along with good practice guidance on consultation techniques and methods.
(2) Have you consulted on the plan/ strategy/ service/policy and if so with whom?	No, as this is intended as a temporary document to reflect temporary changes to planning regulations and guidance as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. As such, it was considered that there would be insufficient time to consult on this document for it to have the greatest impact, whilst changed consultation circumstances related to Coronavirus were still relevant. However, it is the intention that the SCI will be updated and reviewed to reflect future changes in planning regulations and guidance, and will then at that point be subject to the standard 6 week consultation.
(3) Which of the groups with protected characteristics have you consulted with?	N/A
<u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u>	

<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 style="text-align: center;">RACE</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all equality groups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DISABILITY</p> <p>The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of virtual and remote methods. This approach enables all groups to be able to engage in the planning process during the Coronavirus pandemic, where face to face consultation methods are not possible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GENDER</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all gender groups.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGE</p> <p>The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of methods during the pandemic whilst face to face methods of consultation are not possible. This approach enables all age groups to be able to engage in the planning process, including those who may be shielding for health reasons during the pandemic.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GENDER REASSIGNMENT</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all gender groups.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">RELIGION/BELIEF</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all religions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PREGNANCY / MATERNITY</p> <p>The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of virtual and remote methods during the Coronavirus pandemic. This approach enables all groups to be able to engage in the planning process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEXUAL ORIENTATION</p> <p>The SCI is inclusive of all sexual orientations.</p>

(2) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?	No adverse impacts in relation to the identified groups are anticipated.
(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 negative or adverse impacts are anticipated; therefore no actions are needed.
(4) How does the plan/strategy/service/policy contribute to promotion of equality? If not what can be done?	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. It sets out how vulnerable and shielding households can be engaged in the consultation process during the Coronavirus pandemic, contributing towards equality in the consultation process.
(5) How does the plan/strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not what can be done?	The SCI sets out how virtual workshops and community events can be undertaken, which will foster better relationships between different groups, even whilst face to face contact between groups cannot be made.
(6) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?	The SCI sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken using a variety of virtual and remote methods whilst face to face methods cannot be used due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This approach enables all groups to be able to engage in the planning process thus reducing barriers to engaging with the planning process.

<u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review & Monitoring</u>	
<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>	No Further Action is required
<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>