

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Conservation Area Review - Public Consultation
Directorate	Economy
Service Area	Economy - P&R Planning And Development
Type	Reviewed Policy
EA Summary	The EA will analyse whether there are any potential equality implications arising from the findings of the Conservation Area review for the continued management of all conservation areas within the city as well as plans for the public consultation on its findings.
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Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a Reviewed Policy.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?

A Review for the continued management of all conservation areas within the Birmingham has been undertaken by the City Council in accordance with the required legislation. The Review makes a number of recommendations in respect of the City's conservation areas. These recommendations have been endorsed by the City's Conservation and Heritage Panel for wider public consultation. Birmingham City Council has 30 designated conservation areas.

The designation of a conservation area seeks to 'preserve and enhance' the 'special architectural or historic interest' of that area (Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990). Such a designation does not stifle development, but rather allows for growth and change that responds positively to that special character.

The designation of conservation areas is undertaken by the local authority itself, and is a statutory function governed by the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Paragraph (2) of Section 69 of the Act is clear that the local planning authority must review both the existing conservation areas as well as consider if further areas need to be designated on a regular basis. Standard practice within the discipline is that this should be around every 5 years. A review of all conservation areas in Birmingham has now been undertaken in order to meet this statutory requirement.

The findings of the review identified a number of issues including potential cancellation (de-designation), variation (merging, reducing and enlarging) and possible adoption of new conservation areas. The review's findings will be the basis of a public consultation seeking views on the proposals identified within it.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children: A Safe And Secure City In Which To Learn And Grow	No
Health: Helping People Become More Physically Active And Well	No
Housing : To Meet The Needs Of All Current And Future Citizens	Yes
Jobs And Skills: For An Enterprising, Innovative And Green City	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Not Relevant	No

Disability	Relevant	No
Gender	Not Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Not Relevant	No
Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not Relevant	No
Race	Not Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Not Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Not Relevant	No

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

Analysis

The findings of the conservation review identified a number of issues affecting designations including: potential cancellation (de-designation), variation (merging, reducing and enlarging) and possible adoption of new conservation areas. The review's findings will be the basis of a public consultation seeking views on the proposals identified within it.

In terms of analysis of the potential issues effecting equality matters and protected groups:

(a) Possible adoption of new conservation areas

Could designation impact on homeowners with large families that wish to extend their property, i.e. by making it more difficult or more expensive through tighter planning controls and additional fees?

In practice the designation of a conservation area would not add any further planning controls in respect of extensions of residential homes. Designation would mainly impact on applications for changes to the appearance and character of the public facing aspects of a building.

Might designation create an issue for people with disabilities, i.e. by making adaptation of properties more difficult/expensive through tighter planning controls and additional fees?

There are, anecdotally, examples where accessibility improvements have been made to properties within Conservation Areas without detracting from their historical character. There is also national guidance to help and support people making applications for adapting their property.

Each affected area will be consulted with on the potential for designation, this will include: a meeting with a representative body (such as a neighbourhood forum, parish council etc.), a letter drop to all properties, the letter will include a link to the City Council website containing reports, maps of the designated area and explanations as to what this will entail for the upkeep and maintenance of a property (this will be set out in conservation management plan, that will clearly explain the restrictions on maintenance and types of development that might or might not be supported).

(b) Cancellation

Cancellation of a designated will occur when changes to properties, over time, have resulted in such a loss of character to no longer warrant the area being a conservation area.

Consultation will be as above for new areas, i.e. meeting with a representative body followed by a letter drop to all properties with a link to the website containing reports, maps and explanations of proposed changes.

(c) Variation

Variation to a conservation area will mainly cover changes to the designated boundary and updates to management plans.

Monitoring

All consultation feedback will be assessed for any trends in terms of equality issues and the policy reviewed accordingly.

Analysis

At this stage the analysis of the policy is that there is no potential to disproportionately affect any protected groups. The policy and analysis will be reviewed in the light of consultation feedback.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3.1 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

At this stage the assessment is that changes to conservation areas will not disproportionately affect any protected group. This finding will be tested through implementation of a robust consultation plan that will involve representative groups and inform all affected residents. Consultation findings will be subsequently used to review the proposed amendments to the policy including that of designated areas.

4 Review Date

04/09/17

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.