

Title of proposed EIA	The Birmingham Local Plan - Issues and Options Consultation
Reference No	EQUA970
EA is in support of	New Policy
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of first review	04/09/2023
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Planning and Development
Service Area	Planning Policy
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Dando
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Uyen-Phan Han
Purpose of proposal	Consultation on the Birmingham Local Plan which will provide strategic policies for the future growth of the City
Data sources	Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies; relevant research

Please include any other sources of data

ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Protected characteristic: Age

Age details:

Wider Community

The Birmingham Local Plan (BLP) will provide strategic policies for the future growth of the City over the next 20 years to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive, connected and resilient city. Overall, this will have positive impacts on people of all ages. At this stage, detailed policies are yet to emerge and will evolve and be adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020). The approach to public consultation will be City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting citizens of different ages to ensure specific needs are met and adverse impacts on any particular age group are minimised or eliminated.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken alongside the BLP. The SA assesses the social, environmental and economic effects of the BLP. An appraisal of the Issues and Options Document has been undertaken which identifies likely positive effects in relation to the SA topics of equality, diversity and community due to the policy proposals that are being considered to address the housing needs of different groups (such as older people, families with children, affordable housing, students) and open space and playing fields.

One of the BLP is to improve access to health and social care facilities, high quality open spaces, and sports and recreation facilities to support healthy lifestyles and to improve our air and water quality. This will benefit people of all ages but particularly younger and older people.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Disability details:

Wider Community

In general, the BLP will provide strategic policies which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive, connected and resilient city. We are still in the early stages of the plan-making process - the Issues and Options Stage - which sets out the issues and opportunities the city faces, a draft vision and objectives for the BLP to address and the high level options or approaches that could be considered to meet the challenges. The older person (65+) population is projected to increase by 32% in the future and an ageing population means that the number of people with disabilities is likely to increase substantially. This would suggest there is a clear need to increase the supply

of accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair user dwellings as well as providing specific provision of older persons housing (e.g. sheltered housing, extra-care). . Policy DM10 in the Development Management in Birmingham requires housing development of 15 or more dwellings to provide 30% as accessible and adaptable dwellings in accordance with Building Regulation Part M4(2) but there is currently no provision for housing to support wheelchair users. To help meet the housing needs of wheelchair users, the BLP is considering having a policy which requires residential development of a certain threshold to provide a percentage (e.g. 10-15%) of wheelchair accessible homes. The financial viability of this potential policy requirement will need to be tested.

Public consultation will be carried out on the Issues and Options Document in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020). The approach to public consultation will be City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups including consideration in the provision for the needs of people with disabilities within all planning policy areas.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Gender details:

Wider Community

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adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020).

The draft vision and objectives of the BLP includes delivering a city of growth for all, where everyone can reach their full potential regardless of who they are or where they live. It seeks to create safe, secure and sustainable places where walking, cycling and use of public transport are the natural first choice. This will benefit all people. The Plan will also seek to ensure development contributes to reducing health inequalities and maximising health and well-being.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken alongside the BLP. The SA assesses the social, environmental and economic effects of the BLP. An appraisal of the Issues and Options Document has been undertaken which identifies likely positive effects in relation to the SA topics of equality, diversity and community due to the policy proposals that are being considered to address the housing needs of different groups (such as older people, families with children, students) and open space and playing fields.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Wider Community

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consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020).

The draft vision and objectives of the BLP includes delivering a city of growth for all, where everyone can reach their full potential regardless of who they are or where they live. It seeks to create safe, secure and sustainable places. This will benefit all people. The Plan will also seek to ensure development contributes to reducing health inequalities and maximising health and well-being.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken alongside the BLP. The SA assesses the social, environmental and economic effects of the BLP. An appraisal of the Issues and Options Document has been undertaken which identifies likely positive effects in relation to the SA topics of equality, diversity and community due to the policy proposals that are being considered to address the housing needs of different groups (such as older people, families with children, students) and open space and playing fields.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

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The draft vision of the BLP includes the creation a healthy city and under this objective the relevant priorities proposed include ensuring development contributes to reducing health inequalities and maximising health and well-being and improving access to health and social care facilities, high quality open spaces, and sports and recreation facilities to support healthy lifestyles.

The Plan also recognises that healthcare infrastructure planning is necessarily an on-going process and Birmingham will continue to work closely with healthcare partners and the development industry to assess and meet existing and new healthcare infrastructure needs.

The Issues and Options Document is considering a requirement for development proposals of a certain threshold to be subject to Health Impact Assessment (HIA). HIA can help to enhance the benefits and minimise the risks to health of a development.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken alongside the BLP. The SA assesses the social, environmental and economic effects of the BLP. An appraisal of the Issues and Options Document has been undertaken which identifies likely positive effects in relation to the SA topics of equality, diversity and community and health and wellbeing due to the policy proposals that are being considered to address the housing needs of different groups (such as older people, families with children, students), open space and playing fields, and healthy neighbourhoods.

Race details:

The Birmingham Local Plan (BLP) will provide strategic policies for the future growth of the City over the next 20 years to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive, connected and resilient city. Overall, this will have positive impacts on all people. At this stage, detailed policies are yet to emerge and will evolve and be adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020).

The draft vision and objectives of the BLP includes delivering a city of growth for all, where everyone can reach their full potential regardless of who they are or where they live. It seeks to develop and grow the city in fair and inclusive way, meeting the needs of all of Birmingham's citizens and provide local economic opportunities through skill development and job creation as well as foster community cohesion, social interaction and the creation of inclusive and safe environments.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken alongside the BLP. The SA assesses the social, environmental and economic effects of the BLP. An appraisal of the Issues and Options Document has been undertaken which identifies likely positive effects in relation to the SA topics of equality, diversity and community due to the policy proposals that are being considered to address the housing needs of different groups (such as older people, families with children, students) and open space and playing fields.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Religion or beliefs details:

Wider Community

At this stage of the plan-making

At this stage of the plan making process, detailed policies are yet to emerge and will evolve and be adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020). However, the draft vision and objectives within the Issues and Options Document recognises the layers of diversity, character and culture in the city and the importance of planning for community facilities such as health, education and cultural facilities.

At this stage, detailed policies are yet to emerge and will evolve and be adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020). The approach to public consultation will be City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

The Birmingham Local Plan (BLP) will provide strategic policies for the future growth of the City over the next 20 years to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive, connected and resilient city. Overall, this will have positive impacts on people. At this stage, detailed policies are yet to emerge and will evolve and be adapted following various stages of consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2020).

The draft vision and objectives of the BLP includes delivering a city of growth for all, where everyone can reach their full potential regardless of who they are or where they live. It seeks to create safe, secure and sustainable places where walking, cycling and use of public transport are the natural first

choice. This will benefit all people. The Plan will also seek to ensure development contributes to reducing health inequalities and maximising health and well-being.

Socio-economic impacts

The BLP will provide the strategic framework for the future development of the City and so will have a large socio-economic impact. The new Local Plan will be subject to extensive consultation and be underpinned by robust evidence and testing of options to minimise negative effects and maximise positives.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

At this early stage in the formulation of the BLP, there are no actions arising.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

YES

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?

The BLP is supported by a detailed Sustainability Appraisal of the work carried out so far and is in line with government guidance and the Planning Advisory Service Local Plan Route Mapper and Toolkit. The new plan will be prepared in accordance with the relevant planning regulations, the Council's SCI and based on an extensive evidence base to justify each proposed policy within the document. It will also be informed by national and local planning policies, guidance and evidence produced by the Government, the Council and its partners. The BLP will also be subject to two more rounds of consultation. At each stage the consultation feedback provided will be considered and used to inform the Plan and this assessment.

Consultation analysis

Initial consultation has been carried out with neighbouring local authorities and Duty to Cooperate Prescribed bodies in line with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)

(England) Regulations 2012. All of the responses received have supported the need for the new local plan to replace the current BDP.

A consultation statement will also be developed in parallel with the plan to set out how the public consultation has been carried out and provide a summary of the comments received. A database of consultees for planning documents has also been developed to ensure that a wide range of groups, organisations and individuals are consulted representing local communities and protected characteristics.

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

At this early stage of the plan-making process, the impacts are uncertain as the policies have not yet been fully developed. The Issues and Options Document summarises the key planning issues and invites views on how these should be addressed. It also sets out a draft vision and series of objectives for the BLP to achieve and invites people to help shape the direction of the Plan. However, overall it is considered that the vision, objectives and proposed policy directions in the BLP will have a positive impact on all people including those with protected characteristics by ensuring that development is guided to the right location, is of a high standard, enhances quality of life and protects the environment. This will be further tested through a public examination of the document by the Government's Planning Inspectorate once it has been finalised in its later stages.

It is anticipated that consultation and engagement with the wide range of people on the Planning Policy Consultation Database will also help to reveal any potential negative

impacts which we will seek to avoid or minimise.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? At this early stage, the new plan policies have yet to be developed. As they do, they will be shaped by the emerging evidence base and consultation responses to ensure that they will not negatively impact on any groups or individuals with the protected characteristics.

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

The new Plan, once developed, will contain a monitoring framework to monitor the effectiveness of the policies once adopted. This will be reported annually through the City Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

What data is required in the future?

Data and information gathered through consultation and evidence gathering will enable any necessary modifications to be made.

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)

No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

At this early stage of the plan-making process, the new plan policies have yet to be fully developed. As they do, they will be shaped by the emerging evidence base and consultation responses to ensure that they will not negatively impact on any groups or individuals with the protected characteristics.

Consulted People or Groups

Following Cabinet approval consultation on the Issues and Options Document is scheduled to start on the 24th October 2022 for a period of 6 weeks.

Informed People or Groups

All those groups and individuals on the Planning Policy Consultation Database will be consulted.

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

At this early stage of the plan-making process, the new plan policies have

yet to be fully developed. As they do, they will be shaped by the emerging evidence base and consultation responses to ensure that they will not negatively impact on any groups or individuals with the protected characteristics.

QUALITY CONTROL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

No

Quality Control Officer comments

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

No

Decision by Accountable Officer

Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

13/09/2022

Reasons for approval or rejection

Approve

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Content Type: Item

Version: 41.0

Created at 25/08/2022 05:25 PM by Martin Dando

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Last modified at 13/09/2022 10:48 PM by Workflow on behalf of Uyen-Phan Han