

Title of proposed EIA	NEC Masterplan
Reference No	EQUA153
EA is in support of	New Policy
Review Frequency	No preference
Date of first review	13/05/2019
Directorate	Economy
Division	Planning & Development
Service Area	
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Farr
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waheed Nazir
Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	<p>This assessment considers the potential equalities impacts of the decisions to endorse and implement the NEC Masterplan, and to amend leases between BCC and NEC Ltd such as to support the continued success of the NEC Group's operations.</p> <p>The NEC Masterplan has been produced to establish both the scale of the opportunity, and the principles to guide development and connectivity, in order to fully realise the potential of the site including the development potential of the existing surface car parking areas.</p> <p>The Masterplan document sets out a vision for the future of the NEC site as "nec•city" – an internationally unique destination with global appeal that fuses entertainment, leisure, exhibition space, commercial and residential offers across a 175ha campus with the existing NEC at its heart.</p> <p>The purpose of the Masterplan is to deliver sustainable growth. The NEC Group is a significant local employer and a significant contributor to the local economy; as such the sustainable growth of the business is beneficial to all groups. The location of the NEC at UK Central makes it one of the most accessible locations in the country and therefore a location able to support the level of growth proposed. The proposals in the Masterplan will deliver opportunities for new employment, education and training, new housing, sustainable travel, and enhanced public spaces. The economic benefits of the growth will be felt across the region.</p> <p>In implementing the proposals in the plan due regard will be had to opportunities for local employment, and where appropriate to realising benefits through public sector procurement or charters to deliver social value outcomes.</p>

Schemes will be designed with accessibility for all groups in mind.

The endorsement and delivery of the Masterplan will, therefore have the potential to benefit all groups across the city and region, and will not have a negative differential impact on any group or protected characteristic. There will be opportunities to test these assumptions as part of the development and approval of individual schemes.

The NEC Masterplan is in line with the aims of Solihull MBC (the Local Planning Authority for the site), the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP, and the West Midlands Combined Authority. On a macro scale the impact of growth here will be addressed and monitored through the Sustainability Appraisal for the Solihull Local Plan – this will include impacts on the community.

These decisions follow on from and enable the implementation of decisions previously made by Cabinet, for which assessments of the potential equalities impacts were also provided:

- An initial screening was carried out in July 2013 on the decision to sell NEC Ltd and enter into leases on the operational sites. This found that the approach had potential equalities benefits, and that the needs of different groups would be considered during the implementation of the project.
- An initial screening was carried out in April 2016 on the decision to prepare a Masterplan for the NEC site. This focused on the potential impacts of preparation rather than implementation, and found that, as this would be delivered as 'business as usual' for the Council, there was limited opportunity for negative differential impacts.

Protected characteristic: Age Not Applicable

Age details:

Protected characteristic: Disability Not Applicable

Disability details:

Protected characteristic: Gender Not Applicable

Gender details:

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment Not Applicable

Gender reassignment details:

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity Not Applicable

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Protected characteristics: Race Not Applicable

Race details:

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs Not Applicable

Religion or beliefs details:

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation Not Applicable

Sexual orientation details:

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA It is considered that the proposals will contribute to equality of opportunity for all through creating the conditions for growth and job creation. In addition it is considered that the proposals do not have the potential to have a differential impact on any group or protected characteristic. The overall conclusion is that at this stage a full assessment is not required and that the assumptions and conclusions of this assessment will be robustly tested during the development and approval of individual schemes. The appropriate monitoring will be carried out in the implementation of the decisions – through planning applications, procurement approach, the gateway/assurance frameworks of the City and its partners, and through the NEC Group's management of the business – that should any potential negative differential impact arise these will be appropriately addressed.

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing? Yes

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 26/10/2018

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records Yes

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