



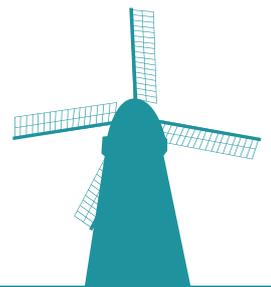
Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036



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Equalities Impact Assessment

June 2018



This background paper supports the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan and provides background information on how the Local Plan impacts on equalities and meets the needs of different groups within the borough. This document is not on deposit for consultation and is background evidence.

Any queries regarding the document should be sent to:

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Website: www.eastleigh.gov.uk/localplan2016-2036

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Equality Impact Assessment

1. Title of policy:

Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 (June 2018) - consultation version published for Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

2. Description of policy:

The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 (referred to as the 'emerging plan') sets out the Borough Council's strategy for development during the plan period 2016 to 2036 and includes proposed site allocations, strategic policies and policies for development management.

Previous consultation was carried out at Issues and Options stage (Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regs 2012) from 23rd December 2015 to 17th February 2016. The responses to the Issues and Options consultation were considered by the Council's Cabinet on 16 June 2016. No equalities issues were identified at this stage.

In addition to the formal consultation process, 'Shaping your Community' was launched in October 2017. This was a two way engagement process focused on informing residents and businesses and also identifying their key priorities for the future of the borough. Some issues raised were associated with particular groups and this is reflected in this document.

The Local Plan is published for public consultation at the Regulation 19 stage. It will be subject to a public examination led by a Government appointed Planning Inspector before its adoption in 2019.

Assessment

3. What evidence is there around the impact of the policy?

The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 has an important role in setting the framework for future development within the borough of Eastleigh and improving places where people live, work, learn and play. It will have an impact on those who live and work in the borough regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion, or any other group with protected characteristics. No adverse impacts of the emerging plan have been identified for any particular group to date.

There are however policies within the plan which are likely to have positive impacts on some groups. For example there are policies which aim to:

- Deliver a mix of housing type and design including affordable housing in order to meet the needs of low income individuals (the provision of affordable housing was the top priority for respondents to 'Shaping Your Community' aged 18-29 years old);
- Meet specialist housing needs, including housing for older persons. This is important as over two thirds of the overall population growth 2016-36 is projected to be people aged 65 or over (ORS Eastleigh Borough Affordable Housing Market Assessment 2017);

- Meet the identified needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people's community;
- Provide internal space standards which will particularly benefit persons on lower incomes, individuals with disabilities and families with young children;
- Provide more accessible dwellings suitable for people with limited mobility and wheelchair;
- Seek provision of new and improved health, education and community infrastructure which may include community centres and places of worship ('Shaping Your Community' showed that medical facilities become an increasingly important priority with increased age);
- Safeguard local centres in order to protect local facilities for future generations (local businesses responding to 'Shaping Your Community' chose the 'availability of local customers' as their top priority);
- Retain existing, and provide a range of new, employment sites to encourage the provision of workforce training activities that give opportunities and jobs to locally unemployed people.

The implementation of the plan will help to reduce adverse impacts on the community which could result from failing to address its needs for development.

4. What adverse impact could there be on the particular groups above?

No adverse impacts have been identified for any particular group to date. The proposed site allocations and policies will have an impact on those who live and work in the borough regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religion, or any other group with protected characteristics.

There are policies within the emerging plan which will have positive impacts on some groups. As mention above in section 3, the implementation of the plan will help to reduce adverse impacts on the community which could result from failing to address its needs for development. If however these policies are not adopted by the Council, there could be an adverse impact on the living conditions of these particular groups.

5. What could reduce any adverse impact on these groups?

The Local Plan consultation database is used to inform and consult individuals, businesses and organisations on the emerging plan. It is extensive and includes consultees who represent those with protected characteristics.

'Shaping Your Community' sought to capture the key priorities for residents and businesses and was analysed to see how these priorities varied by age group and location within the borough. Although this does not identify adverse impacts on any particular groups, it does highlight changing priorities for different groups. This information has been used to inform the proposed submission Local Plan and also more widely within the Council.

The Local Plan is published for consultation (Regulation 19 stage of the plan preparation process) and all representations submitted during this consultation will be considered and responded to. Following this there will be an examination by an independent Planning Inspector, to ensure that any adverse impact subsequently identified is mitigated or avoided in its entirety.

6. What consultation has been done which is relevant to this policy?

Details of the consultation process for the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 are provided in the Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement (November 2015). The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how Eastleigh Borough Council intends to involve the community and a wide range of businesses, organisations and statutory agencies in decisions on planning matters including: the preparation of the Local Plan and any subsequent alterations to, and/or reviews of the plan; new supplementary planning documents and updates to them; and planning applications.

During the previous stage of consultation on the Local Plan - Issues and Options (under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England Regs 2012)) there were no equalities issues identified.

Further public engagement was carried out in October/November 2017 through 'Shaping your Community'. This supplemented the formal consultation and captured views from residents and businesses on their key priorities for the future of the borough. Some issues raised were associated with particular groups as set out in section 3 above.

As part of this current (Regulation 19) consultation, the plan and its evidence base are available for public inspection and representations on the soundness of the plan are invited over a six-week period. The evidence base includes appraisals of all the alternative development and policy options considered and reasons for the Council's choices.

Eastleigh Borough Council will seek to resolve any outstanding objections raised during consultation where possible. The Local Plan will then be subject to examination by an independent Planning Inspector, to ensure that any adverse impact subsequently identified is mitigated or avoided in its entirety.

7. How is the policy likely to eliminate unlawful discrimination?

It is considered that the plan will not unlawfully discriminate against any group or individual, or provide the grounds for such discrimination. The Plan contains a number of policies which will support design features of developments and infrastructure (highways) that will help eliminate discrimination, for example:

- Designs that reduce the risk of discriminatory antisocial behaviour and crime;
- Designs that promote access for disabled people;
- Provision for needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people's community.

8. How is the policy likely to advance equality of opportunity?

The plan sets out evidence for each of the policies contained within it. For example it sets out an approach for meeting other specialist housing needs, including housing for older persons and on the need for accommodation for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople including the potential criteria for meeting those needs.

The consultation also covers issues such as the provision, enhancement and access to open space, recreation and green infrastructure which will have a positive impact on people's health and well-being.

9. How is the policy likely to foster good relations?

The Borough Council's corporate priorities provide a basis for the local plan's vision, objectives and policies. This means that the plan is focused on improving the environment, health and wellbeing and the economy (Corporate Plan 2015-2025).

The finalised local plan will be monitored annually to ensure that the vision and objectives are being met and that the policies are helping to deliver these priorities.

Action Plan

Activity	Key Tasks	Target date	Person responsible
Review	Submission Local Plan and Main Modifications	October 2018, early 2019	Graham Tuck
Monitoring	Authority Monitoring Report	Annually following adoption	Graham Tuck

Lead officer: Graham Tuck

Unit Head: Diccon Bright

Date completed: 07/02/2018

Review date: To be reviewed as required in order to consider changes at Submission and Main Modifications stage

www.eastleigh.gov.uk/localplan2016-2036

