

Local Plan Equalities Impact Assessment



2018

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Local Plan Document. The purpose of the EqIA is to assess the likely impact of the policies of the Local Plan on different community groups, and how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in relation to the development of the policies. The EqIA assesses the likely impact of the policies of the Local Plan on different groups.

The need for an EqIA to be undertaken originates from the duty placed on Local Authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination when carrying out its functions, and promote equality of opportunity between men and women, different racial groups, and other equality groups.

It is important to consider who is affected by the Local Plan i.e. who are the customers of the service. In theory everyone is, in some way, directly or indirectly affected by the Local Plan. However some groups of people are more likely to be affected than others. This would for example include those applying for planning permission (such as individuals, business, and developers), those professionally involved in planning, the voluntary sector and other service providers. There are therefore significant differences in the level and the way different people are affected by the Local Plan, and what they expect that service to be.

The Local Plan DPD has been produced following significant community consultation, the collection of evidence and through working with key partners in the public and private sector.

The policies in the Local Plan have been assessed for their relevancy to the characteristics protected by the Equality Act and the positive or negative impacts of them on these characteristics. The Characteristics considered are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender or sex;
- Religion and belief;
- Racial group;
- Sexual orientation;
- Gender re-assignment;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Marriage and civil partnerships; and
- Other protected and/or socially excluded groups, for example ex-prisoners and those on low incomes).

An initial assessment was carried out by members of the planning policy team in order to assess the potential impacts of the draft local plan on the different groups and this assessment raised no initial recommendations that any modifications needed to be made to the plan. A further assessment has been carried out to capture the changes to the local plan policies and assess additional policies that have been included within the plan following public consultation. This assessment now supports the examination version of the local plan.

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Policy 1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	P	<p>This policy seeks to set the spatial strategy for the borough. It will</p> <p>Allocate land to provide a range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet the differing needs of the wider community. It should have a positive impact on all social groups, including the elderly, the disabled and families.</p> <p>It will provide land for employment uses, potentially increasing the number of available jobs for people that are currently out of employment or on low income jobs.</p> <p>It will provide additional retail space improving accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.</p>
Policy 3 – Regeneration Schemes and Large Scale	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	Regeneration Schemes and large Scale Change will provide overall benefits to the wider community. However, particular

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Change											advantage could be achieved where development responds to accessibility issues such as those felt by the elderly, parents with young children (i.e. mobility of prams/ buggies), and those with disabilities (i.e. wheelchair users, partially sighted/ blind) and new community facilities are provided. Affordable Housing allocations could also help to provide homes for the young and other socially excluded groups.
Policy 4 – Creating a Skilled Workforce	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By Creating a Skilled Workforce, this will potentially increase opportunities for employment for people that are currently out of employment or on low income jobs.
Policy 5 – Improving Health and Wellbeing	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	Development proposals will be required to assess their impact upon existing services and facilities, specifically those relating to health, social wellbeing, culture and recreation. This should be of particular benefit to the elderly, those with disabilities and pregnant women.
Policy 6 – High	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	High standards of design will

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Quality Design and Materials											provide overall benefits to the wider community. However, particular advantage could be achieved where good design responds to accessibility issues such as those felt by the elderly, parents with young children (i.e. mobility of prams/ buggies), and those with disabilities (i.e. wheelchair users, partially sighted/ blind).
Policy 7 – Community Facilities	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	This policy provides new community facilities and protects existing facilities. It is especially important for young, elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women, those with young children and those on low incomes to have easy access community services and facilities.
Policy 8 – Green Infrastructure	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	This policy seeks a net gain in Green Infrastructure through the preservation and enhancement of open spaces and assets that comprise the boroughs Green Infrastructure and its network. It is especially important for young, elderly, people with disabilities and those on low incomes to have easy access to open space and

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											Green Infrastructure.
Policy 9 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	This policy provides new open space, sport and recreation facilities and protects existing facilities. It is especially important for young, elderly, people with disabilities and those on low incomes to have easy access to open space, sport and recreation facilities.
Policy 10 – Public Realm	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	Provision of high quality public realm and improvements to current public realm will provide overall benefits to the wider community. However, particular advantage could be achieved where good design responds to accessibility issues such as those felt by the elderly, parents with young children (i.e. mobility of prams/ buggies), and those with disabilities (i.e. wheelchair users, partially sighted/ blind).
Policy 11 – Housing Choices	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	This policy seeks to secure a range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet the differing needs of the wider community. It should have a positive impact on the elderly, the disabled and families. There should also be benefit to those

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											on low incomes through the provision of affordable housing.
Policy 12 – Housing Density	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	The Council is committed to delivering new homes in an effective and efficient manner at to locating people close to much needed services, facilities and jobs. This should It should have a positive impact on the elderly, the disabled, those with low incomes and families.
Policy 13 – Affordable Housing	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By seeking to increase the affordable housing supply in the borough, those unable to afford market housing will have improved opportunities to acquire a home for sale or rent. Those likely to gain the greatest benefits from the application of this policy are young people, the elderly and those on low incomes, including disabled people.
Policy 14 – Self Build and Custom Build	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	To ensure that the housing mix within the Borough reflects the needs of its communities, the Council will encourage the provision of Self Build and Custom Build. Those likely to gain the greatest benefits from the application of this policy are the elderly, the disabled where

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											suitable housing is not available in the borough and families.
Policy 15 – Urban Infill Development	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	The policy seeks to protect the Landscape Character of the borough through preventing inappropriate development, which is to the benefit of the wider community.
Policy 16 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	The policy aims to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. In addition the policy aims to enhance access to services and facilities that will help reduce social exclusion.
Policy 17 – Kilby Bridge Settlement Envelope	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	The Council will consider small scale development proposals within the defined settlement envelope. This will be of benefit to the wider community, but in particular to those for whom rural living is currently unaffordable and should in particular help, the young, the elderly, families and those on low incomes.
Policy 18 – Stoughton Grange Direction for Growth and	P	N	N	P	N	N	N	P	N	P	Policy 18 seeks to provide new homes. This will bring benefit to the wider community, but in particular families and through the affordable housing element,

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Oadby Cemetery Allocation											the young and those on low incomes. The policy will also provide a new burial ground, which again will bring benefit to the wider community but also to those seeking burial for religious belief.
Policy 19 – Oadby Sewerage treatment Works	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By providing new employment land this will potentially increase the number of available jobs for people that are currently out of employment or on low income jobs.
Policy 20 – Wigston Direction for Growth Area	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	This policy will provide housing, affordable housing, a new primary school, a new community facility building, onsite open space (allotments, sports pitches, play areas and landscaping), and a local centre. This will be of benefit to the wider community, but particularly young people, families with young children, the elderly and those on low incomes.
Policy 21 – Cottage Farm Direction for Growth Area	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	This policy will provide housing, affordable housing, onsite open space (allotments, sports pitches, play areas and landscaping), and a local centre.

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											This will be of benefit to the wider community, but particularly young people, families with young children, the elderly and those on low incomes.
Policy 22 – Delivering Retail	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By the policy concentrating retail within town, district and local centres; the most sustainable locations, this will improve accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.
Policy 23 – Retail Hierarchy	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By the policy concentrating retail within town, district and local centres; the most sustainable locations, this will improve accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.
Policy 24 – Local Impact Threshold	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By the policy concentrating town centre uses within town centres and in the most sustainable locations, this will improve accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.
Policy 25 – Protecting	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By protecting existing employment land this will

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Identified Employment Areas											potentially increase the number of available jobs for people that are currently out of employment or on low income jobs.
Policy 26 Sustainable Transport and Initiatives	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 27 – Primary Shopping Frontages	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By the policy concentrating town centre uses within town centres and in the most sustainable locations, this will improve accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.
Policy 28 – Secondary Shopping Frontages	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By the policy concentrating town centre uses within town centres and in the most sustainable locations, this will improve accessibility for an ageing population, people with disabilities and people on low incomes.
Policy 29 – Town Centre Boundaries	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 30 – Other Areas within the Town Centre	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups

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Boundary but beyond the Primary and Secondary Frontages											
Policy 31 – Use of Upper Floors within the Centres of Wigston, Oadby and South Wigston	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy will provide housing and will be of benefit to the wider community, but particularly young people through the provision of flats in the settlement centres.
Policy 32 – Shop Fronts	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 33 – Security Shutters	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 34 – Car Parking	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 35 - Taxis	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	This policy will help to provide a valuable mode of transport which will be of benefit to the wider community, but particularly; young people, the elderly the disabled and those on low incomes who are unable to afford a car.
Policy 36 – Hot Food Takeaways	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	By restricting the number of hot food takeaways within town centres this will protect other town centre uses. Town centres need to be particularly

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											accessible for the elderly, people with disabilities and on low incomes.
Policy 37 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 38 – Climate Change, Flood Risk and Renewable Low Carbon Energy	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 39 – Sustainable Drainage and Surface Water	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 40 – Culture and Historic Environment Assets	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 41 – Development in Conservation Areas	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 42 – Green Wedges	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 43 - Countryside	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups

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Policy 44 – Landscape and Character	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy would have a neutral impact on all groups
Policy 45 – Local Green Space	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	This policy will protect areas of green space that are in close proximity to and important to the local community, providing the benefit of living near local green space.
Policy 46 – Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	Developer contributions will be sought to facilitate sustainable growth and mitigate the impact of development. This will be of benefit to the wider community, but especially, it should have a positive impact on the elderly, the disabled, those with low incomes and families with young children.

