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| Title of proposed EIA | Smethwick to Birmingham Corridor Framework & Grove Lane Masterplan consultation |
| Reference No | EQUA702 |
| EA is in support of | New Policy |
| Review Frequency | No preference |
| Date of first review | 06/09/2021 |
| Directorate | Inclusive Growth |
| Division | Planning and Development |
| Service Area | North West Planning and Development |
| Responsible Officer(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neil Holly |
| Quality Control Officer(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland |
| Accountable Officer(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Simon Delahunty-Forrest |
| Purpose of proposal | Adoption/approval of draft planning policy documents |
| 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 | Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community |
| Age details: | It is not anticipated that the new policy documents will affect residents/stakeholders differently be reason of their age. As the public consultation on the new policy documents took place during COVID-19 in-person consultation events were not able to be held. Older residents may be less able to access online material. Hard copies of the documents and response form were made available on request and deposited in local libraries. Additionally, leaflets advertising the consultation on the proposed documents were sent to 750 affected properties and officers stood and distributed leaflets to passers by at prominent locations in the area. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the consultation, this includes a range of |

groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about impacts of the new policies by reason of age.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Disability details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of disability. Some of the proposals in the framework for transport improvements for walkers and public transport users may have benefits for some with disabilities. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the public consultation on the draft documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about impacts of the new policies by reason of disability.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of their sex. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the public consultation on the draft documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about impacts of the new policies by reason of sex.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender reassignment details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of gender reassignment. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the

public consultation on the policy documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about the impacts of the new policies by reason of gender reassignment.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Marriage and civil partnership details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of their marriage or civil partnership status. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the consultation on the draft documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about the impacts of the new policies by reason of marriage or civil partnership status.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of pregnancy or maternity. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the consultation on the draft policy documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about the impacts of the new policies by reason of pregnancy or maternity.

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Race details:

The corridor in respect of which the development framework has been produced is racially diverse. Asian/British Asian (in particular Pakistani origin) residents are the

largest ethnic group among residents of the area, followed by African Caribbean. Within Dudley Road and Smethwick High Street (in Sandwell) local shopping centres, a significant number of businesses are in minority ethnic ownership. The council's planning consultation database was augmented by identifying local community organisations to seek to encourage participation in the consultation on the draft documents across the community. The underlying policy seeks to protect and strengthen existing local centres. The new policy provides additional detail for existing plan allocations in Sandwell and Birmingham while also identifying further opportunities. Overall the changes should benefit local communities by improving the local environment, providing new housing, providing employment and improved facilities for active transport in an area with low levels of car ownership. However, the implementation of the plans would bring significant change to the area by bringing new residents. Additionally, it is not known whether the new housebuilding would cause rents or house prices of existing properties to increase. If this were to result, it could have socio-economic effects (discussed below) which would interact with race in view of the ethnic composition of the area. The potential for such effects needs monitoring both in the responses to the consultation and, if the policies are carried forward, in the implementation phase.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Religion or beliefs details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of religion or beliefs. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the

consultation on the draft documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. This includes local faith-based groups of which there are a number, including Muslim, Sikh, Christian. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about the impacts of the new policies by reason of religion or beliefs.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Sexual orientation details:

It is not anticipated that the new policies will impact individuals by reason of the sexual orientation. Those on the council's planning consultation database were notified of the consultation on the draft policy documents, this includes a range of groups and individuals, including those representing protected characteristics. No responses to the consultation raised concerns about the impacts of the new policies by reason of sexual orientation.

Socio-economic impacts

As highlighted above, the underlying policies have potential socio-economic impacts in an area which is predominantly within the top ten or twenty percent of most deprived neighbourhoods nationally (IMD 2019). Positive impacts would include new jobs, active and public transport improvements, new homes including affordable homes, and potentially the revitalisation of local shopping centres. Negative impacts could potentially include displacement of existing local employers - particularly within the Grove Lane masterplan area in Sandwell - and potentially increased rents/house prices. This latter effect is debatable as there may be a 'filtering' effect whereby new build housing reduces the pressure of demand on the second hand housing market locally (and thereby stabilises prices in the second hand market). Nonetheless,

as highlighted above, these potential negative impacts require monitoring both through the consultation and as policies go forward to implementation.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

The assessment above is based on the final proposed policy documents. It has been updated in light of responses received during the public consultation prior to finalisation of the policy documents.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

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

Consultation analysis

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?

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

What data is required in the future?

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

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

The EIA identified potential positive and negative socio economic impacts for the area of implementation of the policies. In view of the ethnic composition of the area those effects could interact with race. This potential requires monitoring in the implementation of the policy as the area changes. However, negative impacts on a protective characteristic have not been identified.

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

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

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