

Title of proposed EIA	Birmingham Design Guide
Reference No	EQUA880
EA is in support of	New Policy
Review Frequency	No preference
Date of first review	22/03/2023
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Planning & Development
Service Area	City Design Team
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stuart Wiltshire
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Uyen-Phan Han
Purpose of proposal	To adopt up to date design guidance to help guide the design of development across Birmingham
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:	<p>Wider Community</p> <p>The design guide seeks to ensure development across the city, leads to buildings and places that enhance their surroundings and effectively fulfil the requirements of all users and/or occupants. The health and well-being of all people lie at the heart of the document, with a desire to ensure the proposal are accessible and inclusive to all; adaptable where appropriate; and/or meet any specific needs or desires to aid inclusion or to meet the specific requirements.</p> <p>There are design principles within the document that will have a positive impact on age characteristics, as follows:</p> <p>Design Principle 5: 'Landscaping New Development' seeks to ensure development creates landscapes that support social and cultural activity, considering all age groups in their design, to help maximum health and well-being gains. It also highlights the need to create spaces and environments that cater for children and young people, provides safe facilities and areas that enable them to play and socialise.</p> <p>Design Principle 8: 'Design of Public Open Space' requires designers to create multi-functional spaces that meet the varied needs of all users. Building on this, it highlights the need to create designs that draw users into the space, with features that provide mental and physical stimulus. To be successful, the design principle emphasis, the needs of different age and social groups must inform designs.</p> <p>Design Principle 15: 'High Quality Homes' will help ensure high quality, functional homes are created across the city. With designs fulfilling the visual and physical needs of residents. For different age groups, both these needs may vary, with the principle requiring designs to be potentially adaptable, enable the home to adapt to change needs, whether due to an increase in the household size, or due to changes in mobility. To the benefit of all age groups, the principle requires designs to deliver functional layout, high levels of natural light and sufficient indoor and outdoor space for all.</p> <p>The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.</p>
Protected characteristic: Disability	
Disability details:	<p>No further issues were raised with regard to age during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments received, which has refined the guidance in Design Principles 5, 8 & 15.</p> <p>Wider Community</p> <p>The design guide seeks to influence the design of all development across the city, with each development contributing to the collective enhancement of 'place' at a neighbourhood and city-wide perspective. A key element of successful 'place' is accessibility, ensuring all of Birmingham's residents, employees and visitors can experience the city equally.</p> <p>To help enhance accessibility across the city, the design guide requires development to successfully meet the needs of all users and occupants, ensuring across the document's five themes, the needs of all are integrated into every element of a design; with any specific requirements / infrastructure effectively integrated into a design and not considered an afterthought.</p> <p>There are design principles within the document that will have a positive impact on disability characteristic, as follows:</p> <p>Design Principle 1: 'Enhance and Contribute to Birmingham's ID' is an overarching principle, which highlights the need for development to positively add to Birmingham's diverse character: physically, culturally and socially. Within this context, it requires development to meet the needs of all users.</p> <p>Design Principle 3: 'Creating Great Streets' requires development to engage and activate its surrounding public realm, with primary entrance and internal activity aiding vibrancy and the navigation into buildings and through spaces. In the creation of new or enhanced public realm, it requires design to be safe, inviting and inclusive for all.</p>

Design Principle 4: 'Transport Needs of Development' seeks to ensure development effectively integrates and provides for the transport needs of all users. Within this context, the principle requires designs to make legible, accessible places that are easy

to navigate; and successfully accommodate the transport needs of people with disabilities.

Design Principle 10: 'Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods' is an overarching principle focused on the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods, where residents and works can access key services and facilities. Ensuring these neighbourhoods are accessible, is a key requirement of this principles, which development must help enhance.

Design Principle 19: 'Designing Non-Residential Buildings' is focused on the design of all non-residential buildings, with a specific accompany City Note (LW-25) in the Healthy, Living & Working Manual focused on Accessible Buildings. City Note LW-25 Accessible Buildings, requires designs to seamlessly integrate any features or infrastructure related to any disability and go beyond the standard requirements of building regulations to aid this. It requires designers to create internal layout that enable direct, efficient movement for all.

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

No further issues were raised with regard to disability during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments recieved, which has refined the guidance in Design Principles 1,3, 4 10 & 19.

Protected characteristic: Sex
Gender details:

Wider Community

The Design Guide seeks to enhance the quality of place across the city, with its overarching focus being Birmingham's citizens, employees and visitors. It wants to ensure development delivers healthy, stimulating and engaging buildings and spaces that enhance people's lives. This aspiration relates to every person in Birmingham, with no gender bias.

The design guide does recognise the diverse communities that comprise Birmingham; and in the design of buildings, landscapes and spaces, it requires designers to engage and respond to these. This may result in their designs responding to specific gender requirements, related to a given community and/or social need. Such outcomes will be project specific, rather than directly influenced by the design guide. But through the design guide's requirement to create sustainable, safe places / neighbourhoods; and respond to specific community needs, it may help the creation of gender specific need and requirements, where appropriate.

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

No further issues were raised with regard to gender during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments recieved, which has refined the guidance.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment
Gender reassignment details:

Not Applicable

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership
Marriage and civil partnership details:

Not Applicable

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity
Pregnancy and maternity details:

Not Applicable

Protected characteristics: Race
Race details:

Wider Community

The Design Guide seeks to enhance the quality of place across the city, with its overarching focus being Birmingham's citizens, employees and visitors. It wants to ensure development delivers healthy, stimulating and and engaging buildings and spaces that enhance people's lives. This aspiration relates to every person in Birmingham, of every race.

The design guide does recognise the diverse communities, that comprise Birmingham; and in the design of buildings, landscapes and spaces, it requires designers to engage and respond to these. This may result in their designs responding to cultural desires, needs or aspiration (which may be linked to race). Such outcomes will be project specific, rather than directly influenced by the design guide. But through the design guide's requirement to create sustainable, safe places / neighbourhoods; and respond to specific community needs it may help the creation of community focused developments.

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

No further issues were raised with regard to race during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments recieved, which has refined the guidance.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Wider Community

Protected characteristic: Sex
 Religion or beliefs details:

Wider Community

The design guide acknowledges and embraces Birmingham's diverse communities, as key element of the city's identity and vibrancy. Religion and beliefs can often play an important role within these communities, which the design guide encourages developers and designers to consider in its engagement with existing communities; and in the design of their proposal (where relevant). In designing proposal, this may range from designing landscapes that are inspired by religion or beliefs, or providing spaces for religious activity to take place; to creating homes with additional living space.

Beyond these overarching elements, City Notes LW-26 of the Healthy, Living & Working Manual (linked to Design Principle 19: Designing Non-Residential Buildings) provides specific design

guidance related to community uses, which includes religious and faith buildings. This guidance recognises the importance of such buildings and seeks to ensure in their design, they're community facing and embrace innovative design to create local landmarks within their communities.

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

No further issues were raised with regard to religion or beliefs during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments received, which has refined the guidance.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation
 Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

The Design Guide seeks to enhance the quality of place across the city, with its overarching focus being Birmingham's citizens, employees and visitors. It wants to ensure development delivers healthy, stimulating and engagement buildings and spaces that enhance people's lives. This aspiration relates to every person, of any sexual orientation, in Birmingham.

The design guide does recognise the diverse communities that comprise Birmingham; and in the design of buildings, landscapes and spaces, it requires designers to engage and respond to these. This may result in their designs responding to community desires, needs or aspiration (which may be linked to sexual orientation). Such outcomes will be project specific, rather than directly influenced by the design guide. But through the design guide's requirement to create sustainable, safe places / neighbourhoods; and respond to specific community needs, it may help the creation of community specific developments.

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

No further issues were raised with regard to sexual orientation during the consultation. But the document has been amended in response to numerous comments received, which has refined the guidance.

Socio-economic impacts
 Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

None

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

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

The design guide supports the Birmingham Development Plan and the Development Management in Birmingham Development Management Document; provide more detailed design guidance on relevant policies within these development plan documents. These documents are supported by a robust evidence base, tested and scrutinised at examination.

Allied with these principle local planning policy documents, the design guide has been informed by the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Design Guide. Ensuring alignment with these documents, the design guide provides a local interpretation reflecting well-established and tested, urban design and planning principles.

Consultation analysis

The draft design guide was subject to a 10 week public consultation period from November 2020 to February 2021 (in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement), enabling all members of the public to comment on the draft documents.

Due to Covid, engagement was limited to press releases, online questions (via BeHeard), a dedicated email address and 10 live webinars, enabling members of the public to ask direct questions to Council Officers. 54 representations were received, the majority of which were detailed representations.

The majority of respondents sought to ensure their specific interests or function were appropriately represented or supported by the Design Guide. Where the City Council believed appropriate revisions would aid the robustness of the guidance, a number of minor amendments to the text were applied. Such revisions made up the bulk of the revisions. Beyond these minor amendments, there were some sections where the guidance was enhanced and/or changed to reflect comments made. These sections included the siting of tall buildings, ensuring public realm aided the management of surface water, enhancing alignment with the Birmingham Transport Plan and removing text related to the historic environment, which will be superseded by the Historic Environment SPD.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation
Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

Wider Community
The proposed policies are not predicted to have an adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. All the design principles are expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring high quality, people focused development is delivered across the city. This in turn will have a positive impact on all of Birmingham's residents, including those with protected characteristics.

None of the comments received during the 10 week period of public consultation, highlighted any impact to people with protected characteristics.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? The document's 10 week period of public consultant and the subsequent assessment of the comments received by the City Council, has resulted in the design guide being refined and enhanced. Beyond this consultation period, there is no further opportunity to modify the document.

It is not believed the design guide will have an adverse impact on any particular groups

particular groups.

The effectiveness of the the Design Guide can be monitored by analysing how the Guide influences planning decisions and appeal decisions.

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

What data is required in the future?

N/A

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

No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

No

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

The proposed policies are not predicted to have an adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. All the design principles are expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring high quality, people focused development is delivered across the city. This in turn will have a positive impact on all of Birmingham's residents, including those with protected characteristics.

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

The proposed policies are not predicted to have an adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. All the design principles are expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring high quality, people focused development is delivered across the city. This in turn will have a positive impact on all of Birmingham's residents, including those with protected characteristics.

the design guide was subject to a 10 week period of public consultation, with none of the comments received raising concerns related to the document's impact on people with protected characteristics.

QUALITY CONTORL 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

01/04/2022

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Content Type: Item

Version: 37.0

Close

Created at 22/03/2022 08:45 AM by Stuart Wiltshire

Last modified at 04/04/2022 08:21 AM by Workflow on behalf of Stuart Wiltshire