

## SEA Assessment

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|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title of proposed EIA                    | Edgbaston Masterplan SPD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reference No                             | EQUA987                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| EA is in support of                      | New Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Review Frequency                         | Six Months                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Date of first review                     | 20/02/2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Directorate                              | Inclusive Growth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Division                                 | Development Planning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Service Area                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Responsible Officer(s)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Alice X Jones                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Quality Control Officer(s)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Accountable Officer(s)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Simon Delahunty-Forrest                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Purpose of proposal                      | The purpose of the masterplan is to establish the future vision for the reservoir and define how the combination of unique sport and recreation, community, heritage, and natural environment can be protected and enhanced by setting clear principles. |
| Data sources                             | Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies; relevant research                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Please include any other sources of data | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Protected characteristic: Age | Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Age details:                  | <p>The masterplan includes proposals that will help improve the accessibility of the site, which will ensure the reservoir is accessible for all users including those with mobility issues.</p> <p>A mix of housing including housing suitable for families and young children will be provided in the plan area. The plan does not subscribe the exact mix as this will be determined through the planning application stage, however the mix of housing will be required to be in accordance to Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) policies TP30 and TP31.</p> |

The masterplan includes opportunities

for new community spaces  
and

facilities to support community activities, along with improved public realm. These proposals provide spaces to bring all the community together and could help tackle social isolation, which can be an issue amongst the elderly.

Educational uses focusing on nature conservation are encouraged in the SPD, however this is not specific to a particular age group and would be for the provider to determine the service offered.

The proposals to redevelop the play park have been removed from this revised masterplan which means that potential negative impacts on children and young people have been addressed. The masterplan includes several proposals that could provide improved opportunities for children and young people including improvements to the park, spaces for community facilities and the support of active community groups such as the Sea Cadets and Birmingham Settlement.

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and all those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stake holders.

The risk of an online consultations negatively impacting on older citizens ability to engage was reduced through the availability of hard copies of the document and the response form being available at the local library and on request.

In regard to the SPD consultation 83 responses were received via the council online BeHeard system. This online questionnaire asked some

voluntary equalities questions to capture details on who responded to the consultation . Overall 26 of the respondees were under 50 years and 41 were over 50 years. The remaining respondees declined to give details on their age. Given the age profile of Ladywood and North Edgbaston wards, which has a very high proportion of residents aged 18-44, a response level from under 50s would have been preferable.

However, this response level from younger generations reflects other planning consultations throughout the city, with younger people being generally less likely to get involved.

Efforts were made to mitigate the lower level of responses from younger generations throughout all the stages of consultation. In the previous consultation's schools and universities were contacted and asked to get involved, and workshops undertaken with members of a local scout group. Social media was also used throughout the process to promote the consultation, with the aim of engaging with younger people.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Disability details :

Representations received in the first public consultation requested the reservoir to be accessible for all, especially disabled people. The revised plan states that development will be required to be accessible to all and encourages the use of adaptive bikes at the reservoir. Technical guidance matters are addressed in other SPDs including the 'Access for People with Disabilities SPD'.

The draft masterplan included a proposal to shut the existing car park near the waterfront. Some representations received during the consultation raised this as an issue, requesting that parking spaces were

made available close to the water for those with limited mobility. The revised masterplan now proposes to retain this car park allowing for accessible car parking spaces close to the waters' edge.

Out of the 83 individuals who responded on BeHeard, 11 individuals responded to confirm they considered themselves to have a disability, 18 people declined to answer and 54 selected no.

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Protected characteristic: Sex

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender details:

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified and no issues were raised through the consultation. Improvements to access and public facilities at the reservoir will ensure this public space is accessible to all.

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and all those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stakeholders.

Out of the 83 individuals who responded on BeHeard 36 selected male and 38 female, 11 individuals did not identify their gender in their response. This represents a good split.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Gender reassignment details :

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified and no issues were raised through the consultation.

The need for publicly accessible toilets has been identified in the masterplan. In regard to gender neutral toilets, the onus is on the provider to make sure the appropriate provision is made. Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and all those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stake holders.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details :

Protected characteristics : Pregnancy and Maternity

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified and no issues were raised through the consultation . Improvements to access and public facilities at the reservoir will ensure this public space is accessible to all.

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and all those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stakeholders.

Protected characteristics: Race

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

## Race details:

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified. The masterplan vision looks to ensure the reservoir is a space that belongs to everyone and includes opportunities for uses and activities that will foster strong community.

The equalities data suggests that the response to the consultation does not fully reflect the diversity of the wards with 55 out of the 83 individuals selecting white British. However North Edgbaston ward has a smaller Black Asian and minority ethnic share of the population compared with other areas of the city.

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and all those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stakeholders. The council worked with the community through the community forum which helped to promote the consultation throughout the community, including through channels such as resident associations within Ladywood.

## Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

## Religion or beliefs details:

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified. The masterplan vision looks to ensure the reservoir is a space that belongs to everyone and includes opportunities for uses and activities that will foster strong community.

The majority of respondents who completed the equalities data selected Christian (20) followed by no religion at (37).

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and **all** those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stakeholders.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Service Users/ Stakeholders; Wider Community

Sexual orientation details:

No adverse impacts to this protected group have been identified and no issues were raised through the consultation.

In response to the equalities data 48 respondents selected heterosexual, 4 as Gay or Lesbian, 3 as Bisexual and 25 selected that they would prefer not to say.

Consultation on the masterplan draft SPD was published online and **all** those on the consultation database were notified. The database includes a wide range of volunteers covering voluntary, ethnic background, people of religious and non-religious belief, disability, environmental and businesses groups, statutory bodies and other key stakeholders.

Socio-economic impacts

The masterplan proposes to bring vacant and underused sites into positive uses that will support the socio-economic sustainability of the area. The masterplan will also have a positive socio-economic impact by delivering affordable housing. Several of the opportunities include the potential for community, leisure and commercial uses that could provide jobs and opportunities for the local community. The masterplan also supports existing local groups that are active in their community such as the



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Settlement. The potential provision of community spaces at the reservoir, and the support for existing groups, will help provide an environment that supports the local community thrive. The masterplan will also create accessible environments and improve connectivity and accessibility to blue and green infrastructure.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

No further action is necessary. The adopted masterplan will be monitored through the existing monitoring framework of the Birmingham Development Plan. Further work is required on individual projects and where these involve the City Council more detailed equalities impact assessments can be undertaken to assess the impact of proposals within the masterplan on specific groups.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

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

Development Plan and background evidence has been used to inform the masterplan along with other policy documents including the Birmingham Transport Plan and the Greater Icknield Mast erplan . The updated Edgbaston Reservoir Local Nature Reserve Management Plan has also informed the assessment.

Consultation analysis

A six-week public consultation on the first masterplan Draft SPD was undertaken between May and July 2019. Approximately 400 individual representations were submitted. Each formal representation from the public consultation has been considered during the masterplan revision.

In January 2020, the council established a Community Partnership Forum to engage with representatives from the local community on the masterplan redraft . The Forum

reorepresents a wide ranee of communitv

and user-group interests. The aim of the Forum is to better align the council's aspirations with those of the community to establish a clear vision for the reservoir. The Forum has ensured local information and experience has fed into the masterplan.

There were approximately 400 formal responses to the consultation. The Consultation Statement, contains further details on the engagement that was carried out, the main issues raised and how they have been addressed in the final version of the masterplan. There were several suggestions for alterations to the master plan. The main points raised during the consultation are summarised below:

- Supports the vision and principles in the masterplan
- Supports the Sustainability chapter
- Opposition to housing on the former Tower Ballroom site
- Opposition to commercial uses on the former Tower Ballroom site
- Requests for affordable and social housing
- Concerns new development will create private ownership of the site
- Requests building line is further set back from the waters' edge
- Concerns future development will have a detrimental impact on the Local Nature Reserve
- Concerns new development will destroy existing views around the reservoir including from the dam wall
- Concerns increased visitors and residents will have a negative impact on the Local Nature Reserve and
- Concerns development will increase noise and light pollution
- Concerns development will generate traffic on local road network
- Requests more detail in the masterplan regarding the location and management of

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- Requests public car parking is available for disabled and vulnerable groups
- Requests for the historic and natural environment to be protected and enhanced
- Requests the reservoir is accessible to all
- Detailed representations from site owners requesting some amendments to the wording on projects
- Concerns there is insufficient infrastructure (education and medical), to support increased residents.

Following a review of all the representations made, amendments have been proposed to the masterplan. These amendments do not alter the strategy within the document but rather strengthen and highlight the existing strategy, to respond positively to several of the representations. This has resulted in a stronger masterplan overall. Where representations have requested changes to the masterplan that have not been implemented, the Consultation Statement sets out the reasons behind this decision. The main amendments to the masterplan can be summarised as:

- Amendments to the proposed design of the Osler Park and Osler Place (former Tower Ballroom Site) opportunity to set the building line further back from the waters' edge and deliver a public square.
- Amendment to reopen the existing car park at the reservoir in a secure and well-managed way.
- Amendments to the context chapter to reflect policies that have been adopted since the previous consultation
- Amended wording in Introduction to reflect current context in relation to Covid 19.
- Addition of definition of short, medium and long-term in the Delivery and Management chapter to inform future delivery.

Further details on the consultation, responses and how these have influenced the final masterplan are available in the Consultation Summary that support the adoption cabinet report.

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics .

No adverse impacts were identified. Further delivery work is needed on the individual proposals which will allow this to be considered further.

One representation received raised several issues that relate to equalities including arguing that:

- the masterplan and consultation failed to address the cultural needs and requirements of specific user groups including young people, disabled people, racial minorities, sex workers and the LGBTQ+ community .

These concerns have been noted, however the respondent has not submitted evidence to demonstrate that specific groups were unable to engage with the consultation process or provided details on how the masterplan fails to address the cultural needs and requirements of specific user groups. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with Planning Regulations and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The masterplan process has been the result of consultation over several years and has involved a variety of methods, reaching a wide audience.

The consultation reports supporting the different stages of plan making set this out clearly. The EqIA identified no negative impacts on any protected groups. The development of council-owned sites will be subject to further EqIA processes if Cabinet approval is needed and planning applications will assess the impact of individual proposals of specific user groups at the reservoir.



and H Suite will remove important cultural venues for Desi, Africa and Hindu communities .

As above, the respondee has not submitted evidence to demonstrate there are specific gaps in cultural facilities for these communities or demonstrated that the proposals within the masterplan will not be suitable to meet the needs of these communities in the future. The Tower Ballroom has not been in operation for several years due to the lack of a viable commercial use, demonstrating a lack of demand for the current type of facility in this format. The masterplan provides several opportunities for commercial, cultural and community facilities that can be optimised to meet the needs of all local communities and any future developments led by the council will be supported by evidence on demand for facilities to meet community needs.

- the masterplan fails to recognise the importance of green spaces to vulnerable groups. Vulnerable persons such as, HMO residents, persons with learning difficulties, single people, LGBTQ+ people, former homeless people, sex workers and people leaving prison.

The criticism that the masterplan does not recognise the importance of green space is challenged, the masterplan states in several places the importance of open space to all the community. It is not felt necessary to single out specific groups within the document. The masterplan proposes no loss to public open space. One of the main purposes of the masterplan is to ensure the open space and facilities at the reservoir are accessible to all through providing public spaces, improving access and making the area safer.

- the Equality Impact Assessment was not provided in the consultation pack . Stating that no evidence of equality considerations and their potential impacts in the preparation of the masterplan has been given.

The EqIA was published as part of the Report seeking approval for consultation as in accordance with Council procedure.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? Not necessary as no adverse impacts were identified. Further delivery work is needed on the individual proposals which will allow this to be considered further.

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

When the Draft SPD becomes adopted it will form part of the local development plan and will be monitored by the City Council through the annual monitoring of the Birmingham Development Plan .

What data is required in the future?

None.

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

A full assessment is not required as no negative impacts have been identified. This consultation has been carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, an adopted City Council policy. The approach to public consultation was informed by the community profile of the two wards the site is located within, (ensuring protected characteristics inform the approach such as Age, Gender and Race) . Relevant organisations with an interest in equalities were also be consulted.

An engagement strategy set out how



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out on the draft SP D. This meet the requirements of the relevant regulations and guidance. A broad range of specific and general stakeholders were informed about the draft SPD through letters, emails, a press release, and an online presence.

Consultation materials were accessible and translated copies of the plan were made available upon request.

The masterplan sets out a strategy for the protection and enhancement of Edgbaston Reservoir. The masterplan is in line with the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) policies, which were subject to an Equalities Analysis. The masterplan has been informed by an evidence base, including evidence on the natural environment through the Nature Reserve Management Plan revision and several stages of public consultation. The masterplan identifies opportunities for investment that will provide facilities for visitors and the local community . There will be positive outcomes for the local population from having new homes, job opportunities, access to services, education and culture and infrastructure delivery such as public transport improvements.

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

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Content Type : Item

Version: 33.0

Created at 20/09/2022 08:35 AM by  Neil Holly

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Last modified at 26/09/2022 11:19 AM by Workflow on behalf of [Simon Delahunty-Forrest](#)

