

Introduction

The Public Equality Duty

The Public Equality Duty requires Rochford District Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

As such, the Council must take into account what impact its policies and decisions will have on people who are protected under the Equality Act 2010 (people who share a protected characteristic of age, disability, gender identity and gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)

Although Equality impact assessments (EIAs) in their written form are not a legal requirement under the Equality Law, the production of an Equalities Impact Assessment is a useful process for providing evidence of compliance with the Public Equality Duty.

The Allocations Document

The Allocations Document will allocate land in the District for a range of uses, and will be used in the determination of planning applications.

The Allocations Document will sit below the Rochford Core Strategy, which was adopted in December 2011. The Allocations Document must be consistent with the Rochford Core Strategy and conform to the policies within it.

Preliminary Assessment

Background

| | |
|--|---|
| Policy or Service being assessed | Allocations Document |
| Lead Officer | Samuel Hollingworth – Planning Policy Team Leader |
| What are the aims or function of the policy or service? | Allocate specific site for a range of uses / development, following on from and in conformity to the Rochford Core Strategy |
| New policy or amendment to existing? | New policy |
| Who is this policy / strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how? | All residents, visitors and businesses in the District will potentially be affected by the future allocation of land. |

Assessment

1. Does, or could the policies / strategies have a negative impact on members of the equality groups below?

| Group | Impact (negative, unclear, or positive / no impact) |
|--|--|
| Age | Positive / no impact |
| Disability | Positive / no impact |
| Gender identity and gender reassignment | Positive / no impact |
| Pregnancy and maternity | Positive / no impact |
| Race | Positive / no impact |
| Religion or belief | Positive / no impact |
| Sex | Positive / no impact |
| Sexual orientation | Positive / no impact |

2. Does, or could the policies / strategies help to promote equality for members of the equality groups?

| Group | Yes, no, or unclear |
|---|----------------------------|
| Age | Yes |
| Disability | Yes |
| Gender identity and gender reassignment | No |
| Pregnancy and maternity | No |
| Race | Yes |
| Religion or belief | No |
| Sex | No |
| Sexual orientation | No |

3. Have there been opportunities for members of the equality groups to influence, affect and shape the policies / strategies?

| Group | Yes, no, or unclear |
|---|----------------------------|
| Age | Yes |
| Disability | Yes |
| Gender identity and gender reassignment | Yes |
| Pregnancy and maternity | Yes |
| Race | Yes |
| Religion or belief | Yes |
| Sex | Yes |
| Sexual orientation | Yes |

Having regard to the results of assessments 1 – 3 above, is further, detailed assessment required?

No. The Allocations Document will allocate specific sites for development in order to deliver the Rochford Core Strategy, which in itself was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. Generally, the specific allocations increase the choice and affordability of housing for all the District's communities, and ensure services and facilities are accessible (as identified in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Allocations Submission Document). The Allocations Document has been subject to community involvement, the results of which have helped shape the plan.