

Development Management Document

Equalities Impact Assessment

December 2013

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 Development Management Document

The Development Management Document will set out the detailed day-to-day planning policies through which development within the District will be delivered, and which planning applications will be judged against. It follows on from, and has to conform to, the Rochford Core Strategy - the Plan that was adopted in December 2011 which set out the principles for development in the district.

Preliminary Assessment

Background

Policy or Service being assessed	Development Management Document
Lead Officer	Samuel Hollingworth – Planning Policy Team Leader
What are the aims or function of the policy or service?	The Development Management Document will set out the detailed day-to-day planning policies through which development within the District will be delivered, and which planning applications will be judged against.
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 proposed planning policies for the District.

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	No
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 Development Management Document will set out the detailed day-to-day planning policies through which development within the District will be delivered, and which planning applications will be judged against, in order to deliver the Rochford Core Strategy, which in itself was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. Generally, the policies in the Development Management Document seek to, for example, ensure dwellings are of an adequate size and design to meet needs, support existing businesses in the Green Belt and ensure adequate accommodation for agricultural workers, where appropriate. The Development Management Document has been subject to community involvement, the results of which have helped shape the plan.