

Equality Impact Assessment

Brief description of proposal to be assessed

Proposed Main Modifications to the Sandwell Local Plan

Date of completion

5th February 2025

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Philippa Smith

The proposed main modifications to the Sandwell Local Plan will help to provide a range of new housing for the people of the borough and will also help to mitigate against the impacts of climate change which will affect everyone.

Impact for each Protected Characteristic

Please indicate which **protected characteristics** are identified as relevant to the proposal.

Protected Characteristics: Statutory

Age

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Disability

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living with a disability in the borough, including access to transport, providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Transport Modelling, Car Park Strategy

Gender Reassignment

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Unknown
Explanation	The Local Plan aims to provide positive impacts for all.
Evidence	There is no specific evidence relating to gender reassignment for the Local Plan

Sex

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Race

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Religious belief

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Sexual orientation

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Pregnancy and maternity

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	There are specific policies in the local plan that aim to improve the lives of all people living and working in the borough, including providing a range of house types and tenures, access to work, school provision, health and wellbeing and recreation.
Evidence	Sandwell Local Plan policies. Evidence base – Playing Pitch Strategy, Green Space Audit, Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Development Needs Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Marriage and civil partnerships

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Unknown
Explanation	The Local Plan aims to provide positive impacts for all.
Evidence	There is no specific evidence relating to gender reassignment for the Local Plan

Non-statutory - Social and economic status

Socio economic status

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	The Sandwell Local Plan aims to ensure that a person's socio-economic status does not affect their ability to have a place to live, a job or a good quality environment
Evidence	Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Needs Assessment, Green Space Audit, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Care experienced (people who have spent part of their childhood in the care system)

Impact (positive, negative, neutral or unknowns)	Positive
Explanation	The Sandwell Local Plan aims to ensure that spending part of a person's childhood in care does not affect their ability to have a place to live, a job or a good quality environment
Evidence	Housing Needs Assessment, Economic Needs Assessment, Green Space Audit, Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Mitigation/Avoidance

N/A

Consultation

Consultation on the Sandwell Local Plan has taken place over a number of years in line with the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. There have been three separate public consultation exercises during 2023 and 2024. The main modifications have been identified as a result of the consultation and in themselves will also be subject to a similar level of consultation.

Monitoring Arrangements

The impacts of the policies in the Sandwell Local Plan are monitored on an annual basis.

Reporting and Publication

The Equality Impact Assessment will be published with the decision being taken.

Proposed implementation date of proposal

On adoption of the Sandwell Local Plan.

Summary

The impact or likely impact of the emerging SLP and its issues and options work on specific groups (race, gender, disability, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy / maternity) has been considered. It is anticipated that all groups will experience positive benefits through the production of updated and locally focussed policies and proposals.

No significant negative impacts are anticipated, although where the SLP identifies sites for development, this will have some locally significant impacts on communities, individuals and the local environment.

Review Date

The EqIA will be updated on commencement of the next Local Plan Review.

Approval

Approved by (Executive Director/Service Director):

Date:

The relevant Director should approve your assessment verifying their agreement and confirming that all relevant factors, including relevant feedback from an Equality Officer.