

# Draft Manchester Local Plan

## Interim Equality Impact Assessments - Delivering the best services for Manchester residents

The EqlA below is an interim document which will be updated and informed by the Draft local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. It is part of an iterative process sitting alongside the process of the Local Plan.

### Contact details

#### Q1. Main contact details

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#### Q2. Your directorate

Growth and Development

#### Q3. Name of your service

Planning

### Establishing the need

#### Q4. Name of your project

Manchester Draft Local Plan

#### Q5. Expected start and completion dates

Expected start 01/09/2025

Expected completion dates 01/07/2027

#### Q6. What is the reason for completing this EIA?

New policy and strategy covering City wide.

#### Q7. Please provide a brief description of the change you plan to implement.

The Local Plan is a statutory document required to be produced by each local authority under relevant Town and Country Planning Legislation and Regulations.

We will be drawing from extensive consultation carried out by colleagues working on the Our Manchester and Making Manchester Fairer strategies in developing the Local Plan.

The Local Plan will be subject to an extensive consultation this Autumn (Regulation 18 stage) with a further consultation in 2026. (Regulation 19) followed by an Independent Public Examination stage.

The Local Plan is supported by a comprehensive evidence base. The Local Plan is also subject to statutory requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and also involves a Health Impact Assessment.

This EQIA will remain a live document and will require updating as actions are fully developed.

#### Q8. What are the main aims of your project?

The Local Plan guides development across the city from 15 years post adoption (adoption expected in mid 2027). It is used in day to day decisions on planning applications for all kinds of development proposals.

The Local Plan is built around the three main aspects of the Our Manchester Strategy covering Our People, Our Neighbourhoods and Our City.

#### Q9. What is the expected outcome?

The Local Plan is a quasi legal document that is used in day to day decisions on planning applications for all kinds of development proposals. The Objectives and Vision of the Plan are drawn from the Our Manchester Strategy and in essence the Local Plan seeks to deliver the spatial strategy for the OMS.

#### Q10. Who is the project aimed at, and how will they benefit?

The Local Plan covers all residents and businesses within the city with a particular relevance to when planning applications are made by individuals/organisations. The Local Plan seeks to deliver the vision of the Our Manchester Strategy in terms of spatial development across the city including housing, the economy, environmental and social matters. It will provide direct and indirect benefits to local communities and organisations in terms of a sustainable urban environment.

#### Q11. If this project will impact people on the basis of their protected characteristics, please tick who may be affected: anyone with the protected characteristic of...:

Age

Disability

Race

Sex

Q12. If this project will impact people on the basis of their membership of a Manchester priority group, please tick who may be affected.

Armed Forces community

Care-experienced young people and care leavers

Carers

Homeless people

People living in poverty (the socio-economic duty)

Q13. I confirm that this project will not have any adverse equality impacts on any communities

No – this project will not have any adverse equality impact on any communities

Please supply supporting evidence for your answer to Q13

Under section 149 Equality Act 2010, a public authority must in the exercise of its functions have due regard to the interests and needs of those sharing the protected characteristics under the Act, such as age, gender, disability and race (the Public Sector Equality Duty – PSED).

This is relevant in a planning context and a claim that the PSED has not been discharged in reaching a relevant decision can be cited in a challenge seeking, for example, to quash a planning permission or a declaration that a certain policy is unlawful.

The Public Examination of the Local Plan requires that the appointed Planning Inspector considers whether the process and content of the Local Plan meets the Public Sector Equality Duty. A key aspect of that will be the development of the Equality Impact Assessment and any subsequent matters that need to be addressed within the Local Plan. Further evidence may be forthcoming as a result of the two stages of consultation (Reg 18 and Reg 19) and any matters that remain at the Public Examination stage and subsequent Final Report by the Planning Inspector with any necessary additional modifications to the Local Plan, prior to its adoption.

### **Part of a wider strategy**

Q14. Is the project part of a wider strategy or programme of work?

Yes

### **Part of a wider strategy - more details**

Q15. If yes, please give details.

The Local Plan sits within the national legislation and guidance for land use planning. The main aspects are the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) produced across a range of policy areas. The NPPF has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and changes to the legislative framework are also considered through the lens of Equalities Impact Assessment. The latest Equalities Impact Assessment of the NPPF can be found via this link - [NPPF -Equality Impact Assessment.pdf](#)

In an answer to a Parliamentary Question the following statement was issued by the current Minister of State for Housing and Planning: "This Government is committed to ensuring that planning decisions reflect the diverse needs of local communities. National planning policy already sets out the need to assess and meet the requirements of different groups, and we are consulting on proposed changes that will strengthen this, such as requiring stronger consideration of those in need of social housing. Any changes to the NPPF also undergo Equalities Impact Assessments in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010."

The Local Plan is also a complementary document to the Joint Local Plan (Places for Everyone) which was adopted by nine of the ten Greater Manchester authorities (including Manchester) in March 2024. PfE has an accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment which can be accessed as follows; [PfE Equalities Impact Assessment](#)

### **Gathering your evidence**

Q16. What sources of quantitative information have you already used to help you identify the potential impacts of your project on different groups of people?

You can upload a file outlining your response to this question if this is easier

The Statement of Community Involvement - sets out how we make consultation more accessible and are designed with diversity in mind. This has been prepared in line with planning regulation and National Planning Practice Guidance.

We will hold planning policy consultation events in places which are accessible to a range of people and try to hold these at times of the day which are convenient to as broad a range of people as possible. Hard copies of planning policy documents will be available in Central Library during formal consultation stages. Material will be published on our website at [www.manchester.gov.uk/strategicplanning](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/strategicplanning). For those without access to the internet, computers are publicly available in all Manchester libraries (through library membership), where people can access documents online. Digital versions of

documents will meet accessibility requirements as appropriate. Where possible, we will try to accommodate requests for consultation materials in alternative formats, including hard copies, to meet the needs of disabled people and other groups.

Our planning policy database includes a diverse range of organisations, including groups representing a range of the 'protected characteristics' as defined in the Equality Act 2010. These groups will be consulted during policy preparation.

We circulate consultation information via the Council's neighbourhood officers to groups in their areas where relevant, and where appropriate we will advertise consultations via MACC (Manchester's voluntary and community sector support organisation) to give other groups the opportunity to get involved.

As previously noted, the Local Plan is informed by an extensive evidence base and aspects of the evidence base has direct material that provides information with respect to specific protected groups.

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (PfE)
- Flood Risk Assessment (Stage 1 and 2) (PfE)
- Economic Analysis (PfE)
- Energy - Currie and Brown Study (PfE)
- Housing Needs Assessment (informing affordable housing, housing mix and supported housing policies).
- Open Space Study which informs the open space policy.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Urban Green Factor (UGF) studies (informing BNG and UGF policies).
- Our Rivers Our City (informs river valley and Green Infrastructure policies).
- Growing Manchester's Trees (informs the tree and woodland policy in the plan plus wider information for potential locations to plant additional trees throughout the city).
- Net Zero New Buildings Shaping Manchester's Local Plan (work led by Manchester Climate Change Agency which informs the zero carbon and energy policies).
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (MCC and GMCA studies) plus earlier GMCA study that included Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs.
- Employment Land Review - setting out an evaluation of existing employment land within the city.
- Retail and Leisure Study (informs retail and City Centre and District Centre policies).
- Hotels Study (informing hotel policy).

- Conservation Areas Study (this includes assessing existing and the potential for new Conservation Areas plus informing work on Conservation Area Appraisals, this work is yet to be finalised).
- Leisure Study (additional study still in progress to inform night time economy and leisure economy in City Centre and other key destinations (Etihad Stadium and Co-op Live Arena) policy approaches)).
- Design Guidance – work commissioned to update the Residential Quality Guidance which will support the design policy and character area policy in the draft plan, work in progress.

This Equalities Impact Assessment has been informed by previous national and local Equalities Impact Assessments previously noted with respect to the National Planning Policy Framework; and the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan. Particular regard has been had to the Equalities Impact Assessment for Places for Everyone including the following documents; Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework EqIA Screening Report (2019) - n.b. GMSF was the forerunner name of PfE

Integrated Assessment of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (IA of 2020 draft GMSF Consultation Document) - see pages 153-162 for the report on the Results of EqIA screening assessment.

Q17. Detail any stakeholder/engagement consultation here, including which communities you have engaged with, and how.

You can upload a file outlining your response to this question if this is easier. (see link below)

At the outset it is worth emphasising that due to the planning legislative framework that drives the development and content of the Local Plan, the document and supporting material is of a technical detail. Despite this, the document is written in plain English to be as accessible to all users of the Local Plan and engagement was good at the Issues Stage in 2020 with 562 responses and six face to face events.

The Local Plan database will notify those registered of the upcoming Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 stage and set out how to access the document and comment. It will also be accompanied by a social media plan and face to face events.

The primary users and audience for the Local Plan will be individuals and organisations that engage with the UK Planning System rather than being intended as a document for a wider audience.

The Local Plan was originally consulted upon in 2020 with an Issues Paper [link](#). The consultation ran from February 2020 to May 2020 and it is noteworthy that this included

the initial stages of the Covid 19 Pandemic including the significant lockdown of the country from late March 2020.

Q18. Please outline the key feedback you have received, split out by community if helpful

You can upload a file outlining key feedback if you want (see link below)

At the initial Issues Stage of the Local Plan, held in 2020, feedback was received across a range of issues.

This [link](#) provides an overview of the consultation response.

As noted above, the Local Plan has also benefited significantly from the work undertaken for the Our Manchester Strategy.

Q19. Please provide details of how you will engage and involve communities on the proposed project as it progresses.

You can upload a file outlining how you will engage and involve communities if that is easier.

The Local Plan is intended to be consulted upon from September to mid November 2025 for a period of eight weeks. The consultation of the Manchester Local Plan is required to be in accordance with the Manchester Statement of Community Involvement [Link](#), which sets out in detail how we will engage and involve the community in the preparation of the Local Plan.

The consultation will be hosted on a digital platform (Keystone Objective) which has been used for previous planning consultations by both this authority and numerous local councils around the country.

A number of face to face events are planned to engage across the communities of Manchester to specifically allow for awareness raising and general understanding of the purpose of the Local Plan. More specific groups representing specific sectors of the local community will be consulted where appropriate within the timescale of the consultation and this will look to ensure coverage of protected groups is included within the consultation.

The Local Plan consultation also benefits from the extensive and wide ranging consultation undertaken for the Our Manchester Strategy. Issues raised within that consultation have been taken into account in drafting the Local Plan.

Q20. If you do not plan to talk to stakeholders, please provide the rationale for that decision.

Not Applicable

Q22. What qualitative and quantitative data will you use to inform gaps in your knowledge about impact on different groups?

Much of the data is available either through the work undertaken for the Our Manchester Strategy; and for previous work via GMSF/PfE.

An aspect of the planned consultation will be the opportunity to understand whether any additional research is required or could be supplied by relevant individuals and organisations, having had the chance to digest the plan and its proposed policies. It is important to remember that this is a Regulation 18 consultation stage and there will be a further consultation at Regulation 19 in 2026, followed by the Public Examination stage.

Q23. What sources will you use? (include both qualitative and quantitative)

The Local Plan is an iterative process and each consultation stage it used as an opportunity to review our knowledge about reaching different groups. We also link into lessons learnt from the Our Manchester Strategy and use State of the City and Census data (latest version 2021).. As noted before there is an extensive specific set of evidence base reports for the Local Plan that will be published alongside the consultation.

The existing Local Plan (Core Strategy) and Places for Everyone have comprehensive monitoring and data collection procedures. There is an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) produced each year which can be accessed at the following [link](#).

Q24. Which individual or team is responsible for finding this data, and what is the timeframe?

The Planning Strategy Team manage the Local Plan evidence base and consultation. The State of the City and Census data is managed by colleagues in PRI.

Q25. Do you have any gaps in evidence that make it difficult to identify any impacts on particular groups of people?

No

### **Identifying the barriers**

Q27. Age Identify any barriers or potential adverse impacts that are relevant for people at different ages, including consideration of children's



rights (under 18), young people (those aged under 25), middle age and older age (over 50).

Positive impact. The Development Principles policy incorporates specific wording to consider the impact as set out below. "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

Elsewhere in the plan the policies will benefit across key age groups in the following manner. Under 18s - Housing, Employment, Zero Carbon, Environmental and Social Infrastructure Policies will deliver a future city with for example a wider range of housing opportunities for families and also housing options for children within care environments including Looked After Children. Employment policies will deliver opportunities for job growth in a range of industries. Zero Carbon policies will seek to deliver development that reduces the impacts on the global and local environment benefitting children in terms of the challenges faced by society with respect to climate change. Environmental policies will deliver a cleaner and greener city allowing for a greater range of interaction by children within their local communities. The Social Infrastructure Policies specifically look to improve the quality and accessibility of open spaces and recreational facilities/spaces providing better outcomes for children in terms of their access to open space and recreation.

A similar set of positive outcomes are expected for young people with an additional point around the ability to access a range of housing options as they start their own journeys into young adulthood.

For middle age and older age people, the benefits noted above also apply, noting that there will be specific housing options developed for those requiring particular forms of housing as their needs change during their lives.

In general terms, climate change policies look to ensure that development provides sustainable design and reduces carbon emissions, whilst increasing energy efficiency. This should be beneficial to elderly and young people in particular, helping to reduce costs and improving health. Open Space policies will benefit all age groups, particularly children through the provision of play areas and facilities, including retaining existing playing pitches. The design policies support inclusive design by meeting the needs of disabled and elderly people in new development. This supports safety and convenience in new development to react to demographic trends.

**Q28. Disability** Types of impairment may be physical, sensory, psychosocial, and intellectual. Disabled people may face exclusion due to a range of barriers eg physical, social/attitudinal, institutional, communication. Include the barriers you have considered.

Positive impact. As noted above under the age category, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

The draft Local Plan includes a specific element within Policy H4 that sets out the expectation for the delivery of M4 (3) wheelchair accessible homes as part of the general supply of new homes across the city. Policy H4 provides a keystone policy with respect to the delivery of different housing options for current and future residents of the city.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development as set out in the NPPF and to this end the transport policies proposed in the draft plan seek to promote accessible transport options within an accessible city environment, including in Policies T1 and T2.

The needs of the protected characteristic are relevant to the proposal as it is the government requirement to meet the needs of the community, including those with disabilities. There is significant potential to advance equality of opportunity through the built environment and infrastructure, provided the needs of people with different protected characteristics are fully taken into account in the early policy and planning stages, through to design and this is reflected in Policy D1 Design Principles which seeks to address the needs of diverse and inclusive communities.

**Q29. Gender reassignment** Identify any potential adverse impacts on transgender or non-binary people.

The Equality Act definition of gender reassignment covers anyone proposing to undergo, undergoing or having undergone a process to reassign your sex, which includes social transition. Non-binary people are not covered by this definition but are included in our EIA questions because of the Council's inclusive approach.

There will be an unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all. As noted previously, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

**Q30. Marriage or civil partnership status** This category is only required for employment matters.

There will be an unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all.

**Q31. Pregnancy or maternity** Identify any potential adverse impacts on people due to pregnancy or maternity.

There will be an unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all.

**Q32. Race** Identify any potential adverse impacts on different ethnic groups and identify which ethnic groups you may need to specifically consider.

As noted previously, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

The Local Plan policies, proposals and allocations will aim to ensure that sites are available to provide sufficient housing to meet the housing needs of all groups across the city.

In terms of housing, the Local Plan supports the delivery of mixed sizes and tenures, including the provision of affordable housing for all groups in need. No disproportionate negative impacts upon any racial group has been identified at this stage.

Gypsies and Travellers are considered in a specific policy. An accommodation needs assessment has been carried out, which has informed Policy H3. The proposals include a site planned to replace the closed facility at Dantzic Street.

**Q33. Religion or belief** Identify any potential adverse impacts on different religious groups, and detail any specific considerations.

There will be an unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all. As noted previously, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

**Q34. Sex** Identify any potential adverse impact on men, women or intersex people due to their sex. What is the impact of the proposal on sex?

As noted previously, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

The approach in the draft Local Plan with respect to design seeks to encompass elements that will contribute to giving everyone the feeling of safety. This is expected to impact on people of a different sex or gender in the same way.

**Q35. Sexual orientation** Identify any potential adverse impacts on people with different sexual orientations, and the barriers you may need to consider.

There will be a unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all.

As noted previously, the Development Principles policy includes a specific clause, "considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity or income."

**Q36. Caring responsibilities** Identify any potential adverse impacts based on someone's status as a paid or unpaid carer.

Policies within the plan will assist in providing potential positive impacts including for example housing options that will provide a range of solutions for different care situations. Other aspects of the plan noted previously around environmental and social infrastructure policies can provide opportunities to interact within the local community through the improvements to local environmental conditions and accessibility/quality of open spaces.

**Q37. Care-experienced young people or care leavers** Identify any potential adverse impacts on anyone who is living or has lived in local authority care.

Policies within the plan will assist in providing potential positive impacts including for example housing options that will provide a range of solutions for different care situations. Other aspects of the plan noted previously around environmental and social infrastructure policies can provide opportunities to interact within the local community through the improvements to local environmental conditions and accessibility/quality of open spaces.

**Q38. People experiencing homelessness** Identify any potential adverse impacts on anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The policies within the Housing section of the draft Local Plan will specifically assist in addressing homelessness through the provision of various housing options, which may include developments that provide specialist supported approaches.

**Q39. People living in poverty (including socio-economic disadvantage)**  
Identify any potential adverse impact due to deprivation, and identify which communities you may need to specifically consider.

The draft Local Plan as a whole seeks to deliver sustainable development which includes key elements around economic and social dimensions. Through its economic approach both in terms of strategic policies and the specific section on the economy; plus social infrastructure policies (e.g. Policy SI 3 covering social value) will provide a framework that supports improvements to peoples' lives including the opportunity to access a range of jobs and training opportunities.

**Q40. Armed Forces community** Identify any potential adverse impacts on people who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces and their families.

There will be an unknown impact for this specific group. However, they will not be excluded from receiving the positive benefits that are intended for all.

**Q41. Other** Have you identified other barriers for any other group or community?

No other barriers have been identified.

**Q42.** Do you have any evidence that your proposed changes will have a positive impact on any groups of people, and/or promote equality of opportunity?

Positive aspects have been identified in the previous boxes where relevant.

**Q43.** Do you think that any adverse impacts you have identified can be justified, so that your project can go ahead without any adjustments?

Yes, the equality impacts identified are justifiable, and we don't need to make any adjustments to our project

**Q44.** Please set out your reasons for this.

The Local Plan seeks to deliver future development that will be beneficial for the communities and businesses within Manchester. Whilst there will be potential impacts that will required mitigation, the overall impacts of the Local Plan are considered to be positive.

**Q45.** Do you have any evidence that your project will have a positive impact on any groups of people, and/or promote equality of opportunity?

Yes, we have identified positive impacts

Q46. You answered yes to - Do you have any evidence that your project will have a positive impact on any groups of people, and/or promote equality of opportunity? Therefore please provide more details.

The positive aspects have been identified with respect to age, disability, race, homelessness, people living in poverty and carers/people leaving care. the evidence is drawn from our existing Authority Monitoring Reports and the impacts of similar policies in the existing local plan (Core Strategy) to those within the draft Local Plan. Moreover, the draft Local Plan seeks to develop improvements to specific existing policies either through a change in standards or by way of policy wording that seeks to address the challenges experienced in the delivery of existing local plan policies.

Q47. Is there any evidence that your project will have no impact on equality?

No, the project will mean some impacts, as listed above.

### **Mitigating the impacts (inclusion by design)**

Q49. Give details of any mitigating actions that you plan to make, linked to the barriers and adverse impacts that you have identified.

You can upload a file outlining your response to this question if this is easier

The draft Local Plan seeks to improve on existing policies within the adopted Local Plan (Core Strategy) that has been the plan in place since 2012. The draft Local Plan will deliver mitigating actions in the following manner:

1. Developing a framework that is complementary to the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan, adopted in March 2024 which already incorporates policy aspects that seek to deliver development that improves peoples' lives - for example, the inclusion of the M4 (2) accessibility standard for developments.
2. Ensuring the draft Local Plan is complementary to the national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and attendant guidance (Planning Practice Guidance).
3. Noting that both the national policy and guidance; and Places for Everyone have Equalities Impact Assessments that have sought to ensure that the NPPF and PfE deliver policies that take account of the various protected characteristics.

4. The forthcoming consultation on the draft Local Plan will enable communities and organisations to comment on the policies in the draft plan. Feedback received from the consultation can then be used to evaluate whether there are further changes needed to address any specific matters with respect to equalities. Ultimately, following the consultations at regulation 18 and regulation 19 that are required by national planning legislation, the draft Local Plan will be examined by an Independent Inspector who will need to assess whether the contents of the draft Local Plan and the process undertaken to produce the plan meets the Public Sector Equality duty.

Q50. Upload your actions list here if needed.

You can upload a file outlining your response to this question if this is easier

The key actions will be as follows:

1. Consideration of the consultation response to the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) stage to determine where the draft Local Plan will need further refinement to ensure the policies address any specific concerns with respect to equalities.
2. A repeat of the exercise as noted in 1 at the consultation on the draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) stage.
3. Final consideration and assessment by the Independent Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, who will consider whether the contents of the draft Local Plan and the process undertaken to produce the plan meets the Public Sector Equality duty.

### **Monitoring and the impact (Assessing combined impacts and action planning)**

Q51. Provide details of how you will monitor, evaluate or review your proposals and when the review will take place.

Reference your engagement plans in Stage 2: Demonstrating Knowledge, as well as the actions in Stage 4: Inclusion by Design. In these plans, please note the 2022 changes to corporate data monitoring standards and what data we expect to be collected – more information about this can be found on the intranet.

As previously described and referenced, the key aspects associated with the Local Plan and monitoring/evaluation are as follows:

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) The Authority Monitoring Report will be key in monitoring the policies of the adopted Local Plan (anticipated to happen in 2027). The AMR process already monitors policies in the current Local Plan (Core Strategy) and is

picking up monitoring with respect to the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan, adopted in 2024. Aside from this, public consultations at different stages (i.e. Regulation 18 and Regulation 19) will be key in identifying any gaps in the proposed Local Plan. In order to ensure that we have gained a range of views from people with different protected characteristics, we will equality monitor the consultation responses. Once adopted the Local Plan will be reviewed every five years in correlation with government guidance or sooner if necessary.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - The SCI is currently being updated to take on board changes made to planning at the national level. Regular updating and publishing of the SCI outlining the consultation procedures will help identify any gaps.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which assesses the social, economic and environmental impact of policies and objectives – the SA is undertaken for each stage of the Local Plan and is consulted as one of the key pieces of evidence. Any comments received as part of the consultation will help to identify gaps identified by the community and organisations that respond to the draft Local Plan consultations at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 stages.

**Q52. What will you monitor? When, and who will be responsible for managing the actions, and how will it be done?**

The details for monitoring are set out in the Authority Monitoring Reports in so far as they relate to the current Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan.

The proposals for monitoring with respect to the draft Local Plan will feature as part of the Regulation 19 consultation and will be considered by the Independent inspector within the examination stage of the draft Local Plan.

**Q53. How will you monitor the impact of your project as it progresses?**

The feedback from the next round of consultation (regulation 18) on the draft Local Plan will be used to update this Equalities Impact Assessment. this will then inform the any potential changes proposed for the draft Local Plan, prior to it going out to consultation again under the Regulation 19 stage.

**Q54. How you will continue to engage with communities as your project progresses, to ensure the measures you take to address any disparity are working.**

There are two significant stages for engagement at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation points. The consultation for the Regulation 18 stage will be this autumn; with the expectation that the Regulation 19 consultation will take place in summer 2026.



Beyond the two main consultation stages, there will be scope for potential further engagement and discussion with respect to equalities matters, where specific issues are identified that need additional consideration to inform how the draft Local Plan can be further improved/ provide appropriate mitigation.

**Q55. How engagement with stakeholders will continue**

The answer to Q52 outlines the opportunities at the formal consultation stages (Regulation 18 and Regulation 19) and moreover, further chances to engage on any specific issues that require continuing dialogue to understand how the draft Local Plan can be further improved/ provide appropriate mitigation.

The Examination stage of the draft Local Plan will also provide for discussions with the Independent Inspector, particularly with respect to matters that have not been resolved via the consultations at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19. This happened in the case of the Places for Everyone Joint Local Plan where a specific session on the examination included a focus on dealing with how accessibility issues were covered in the plan.

**Q56. Are there any further actions, to address ? If so what has been identified**

None identified but happy to discuss further.

**Approval**

**Q57. I confirm that this EIA is completed to the best of my knowledge, and that it will be updated throughout the life of the project as relevant and that this is a living document that will require updating throughout the life of the project**

Yes

**Q58. Project owner**

Project owner full name -Duncan McCorquodale

Job role - Planning Strategy Manager

**Q59. Head of Service or Senior Responsible Officer:**

Full name- Mark Dickins

Job title – Deputy Director Planning & Building Control

**Q60. Date of sign off (DD/MM/YYYY)**

09/09/2025