

## EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

<b>STRATEGY:</b> Darlington Local Development Framework, Core Strategy: Revised Preferred Options (2010)	<b>Department:</b> Chief Executive's (Regeneration)
<b>Persons Responsible for Assessment:</b> Valerie Adams (Principal Planning Officer)	<b>Date of assessment:</b> November 2009

### **Brief description of strategy and to whom provided/available:**

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a set of planning policy documents that will replace the Darlington Local Plan; the Core Strategy will be the principal document. It will provide broad, spatial planning guidance on the scale and distribution of new development, the use of land and buildings and the provision of infrastructure in the Borough over the next 15 years or so. It will help to deliver spatially 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', the Borough's sustainable community strategy. LDF documents are subject to extensive consultation and public participation. Consultations have previously been carried out on 'Issues and Options' (CSIO), and Preferred Options (CSPO). Cabinet is being asked at its meeting on 5th January 2010 to agree the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (CSRPO) document for consultation from late January 2010. This assessment is of the CSRPO.

### **Introduction**

The impact assessment looks at how a strategy is planned and how it promotes, monitors and consults in respect of equalities. Completion of the impact assessment will help us determine the extent to which the strategy and its delivery meet the requirements of the Equality Standard for Local Government, the Race Relations (Amendment ) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005.

The attached questionnaire provides a structure for the impact assessment that has been undertaken.

**Q.1 Is the strategy and the actions it proposes accessible to everyone within the community? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.**

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Race (inc. culture and nationality)	✓		The CSRPO is a document for consultation and copies can be made available on request in languages other than English, in line with Council policy. There will be direct consultation by letter of representative bodies and other groups that may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington. A summary of the document and publicity material that explains the key issues in plain English will be produced.	The CSRPO does not act as a constraint on the ability of the Council to respond to specific needs identified for any distinct groups.
Religion or belief	✓		A range of representatives of faith groups which may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington have been identified for direct consultation.	As above.
Gender (inc. transvestitism, transgender and transsexuality)	✓		A range of representatives of gender groups which may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington have been identified for direct consultation.	As above.
Sexuality (inc. homosexuality and bisexuality)	✓		As above.	As above.
Impairment (inc. physical and/or mental impairments).	✓		As above, but also material can be made available on request in different formats for those with visual impairments. A separate Disability Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.	As above.
Age	✓		As above. The option of undertaking a specific consultation event for older people, for example through GOLD, will be considered. The option of undertaking specific consultations with young people, will be investigated with schools and the Council's Youth Service.	As above.
Geographical location	✓		Every effort is being made to identify for direct consultation local representative bodies and other groups, both within the town and in the rural part of the Borough, which may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington. These include residents groups, community partnerships and parish councils. Specific events are being planned in the broad areas where significant new development is being proposed.	As above.
Any other equality issue (e.g. people with dependants and/or caring responsibilities or people with a criminal record)	✓		Every effort is being made to identify for direct consultation representative bodies and other groups that may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington.	As above.

**Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does the strategy treat any group differently from its other service users?**

Yes

✓

No

**If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.**

1. There is a specific draft policy on accommodating travelling groups. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by inadequate provision.

**(b) What needs to be done to prevent any potentially adverse impact?**

The approach of the policy can be reviewed at the next stage in the Core Strategy preparation process if unforeseen adverse impacts are identified.

**Q.3 (a) Do you promote equality within the strategy? (e.g. through departmental equalities group, innovative marketing or community engagement techniques)**

Yes

✓

No

**If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.**

1. The second of eight strategic objectives for the LDF Core Strategy is to 'provide equality of opportunity for everyone now and in the future by ensuring that the design, location and mix of development across the Borough maintains and creates safe, attractive accessible, healthy and inclusive sustainable communities, eliminating any disadvantage people experience'.
2. Equalities of access: Revised draft policies, such as CS19 (Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable transport Network), CS9(district and local centres and local shops and services), CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs) and CS17 (Strengthening the Green Infrastructure Network) are designed to ensure that there is good access to shops, housing, services and other facilities for all, wherever people live.
3. Equality is enshrined in the 'One Darlington' priority of the sustainable community strategy One Darlington : Perfectly Placed. An appendix of the LDF Core Strategy will list the policies that will help to deliver that priority.

**Q.4 Are there any plans in place within the strategy to promote equality more effectively?**

Yes  
No

✓

**If yes, please outline what you intend to do (including details, if known, of timescales and areas to be covered, etc.)**

See response to Q3 above.

**Q.5 In the past three years, have you consulted with any of the following groups regarding the delivery of and access to the strategy?**

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please give evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes)	If no, what consultation do you plan to do and by when?
Racial (inc. culture and nationality)	✓		<p>There have been two earlier consultations on the Core Strategy in 2004 and 2005 before it was decided to re-start the process. Consultations took place on the Core Strategy: Issues and Options in February 2008, and on Preferred Options in October-December 2008. A wide range of representative bodies and interest groups, local and national, were consulted at each of these stages.</p> <p>Racial and national bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission for Racial Equality;</li> <li>• Darlington &amp; Durham County Race Equality Council;</li> <li>• Darlington &amp; District West Indian Association;</li> <li>• Darlington Bangladeshi Association;</li> <li>• Darlington Chinese Association;</li> <li>• Gypsy &amp; Traveller Community;</li> <li>• UK Association of Gypsy Women;</li> <li>• Punjabi and Hindi Association.</li> </ul>	<p>The same bodies and groups - and more if they can be identified - will be consulted on the Core Strategy: Revised Preferred Options, beginning in late January 2010.</p>
Religion or belief	✓		<p>As above. Religious bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contacts at 31 churches, mosques, temples, etc;</li> <li>• Darlington Sikh Association for Women;</li> <li>• Sikh Community Welfare, Cultural Society and Missionary Society;</li> <li>• Darlington Town Mission;</li> <li>• Life &amp; Light Missions;</li> <li>• Islamic Society - Darlington;</li> </ul>	<p>As above.</p>

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please give evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes)	If no, what consultation do you plan to do and by when?
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islamic Women’s Forum.</li> </ul>	
Gender (inc transvestitism, transgender and transsexuality)	✓		<p>As above. Womens groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Federation of Towns Womens Guilds;</li> <li>• Durham County Federation of Women’s Institutes;</li> <li>• National Council of Women;</li> <li>• Soroptimist International of Darlington and District.</li> </ul> <p>See also below.</p>	As above.
Sexuality (e.g. homosexuality and bisexuality)	✓		As above. Direct consultation included with Gay Advice Darlington.	As above.
Impairment (e.g. physical and/or mental impairment)	✓		<p>As above. Groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alzheimer’s Disease Society;</li> <li>• Darlington &amp; District Deaf Club;</li> <li>• Darlington Association on Disability;</li> <li>• Darlington Coronary Support Group;</li> <li>• Darlington MIND;</li> <li>• Darlington Society for Mentally Handicapped Children &amp; Adults;</li> <li>• Darlington Society for the Blind;</li> <li>• Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse;</li> <li>• Darlington &amp; District Tinnitus Group;</li> <li>• Guide Dogs for the Blind.</li> </ul>	As above.
Age	✓		<p>As above. Groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Senior Citizens Association;</li> <li>• Age Concern Darlington;</li> <li>• GOLD Members.</li> </ul>	As above.
Geographical location	✓		<p>As above. Location-specific bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all parish councils and parish meetings in the Borough;</li> <li>• ward councillors;</li> <li>• Community Partnerships for the 11 priority wards;</li> <li>• community groups and residents’ associations in the town at Blackwell Grange, Branksome, Cockerton, Haughton, Lascelles, Parkside, Red Hall, Rise Carr, Skerne Park, Springfield Westbrook Villas and Whinfield.</li> <li>• community centres and groups in the villages of Bishopton, Brafferton &amp; Coatham Mundeville, Heighington, Hurworth, Middleton St George, Neasham, Sadberge and Summerhouse.</li> </ul>	As above.

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please give evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes)	If no, what consultation do you plan to do and by when?
Any other status (e.g. people with dependants and/or caring responsibilities or people with a criminal record)	✓		As above. Groups sent direct consultations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington Carers Support Project;</li> <li>• First Stop Darlington;</li> <li>• Refugee &amp; Asylum Seekers Support Group;</li> <li>• North of England Refugee Service;</li> <li>• Sure Start;</li> <li>• Durham County Probation Service;</li> <li>• DBC Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator;</li> <li>• National Offender Management Service.</li> </ul>	As above.

**Q.6 Do you train your staff on equality issues?**

Yes

Yes

No

**If you have answered yes: What training is available? Who delivers it? Who receives it?**  
 DBC Corporate Equalities Training module. To be undertaken by everybody.  
 Officers have also attended Evolution workshops on faith awareness and racial awareness in 2008.

**If you have answered no, what are your plans to deliver training in the future?**

END