

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

STRATEGY: Darlington Local Development Framework, Publication Draft Core Strategy	Department: Chief Executive's (Regeneration)
Persons Responsible for Assessment: Valerie Adams (Principal Planning Officer)	Date of assessment: June 2010

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 period 2011-2026. 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), Preferred Options (CSPO) and Revised Preferred Options (CSRPO). Cabinet is being asked at its meeting on 13th July 2010 to make recommendations to Council to agree the Core Strategy Publication Draft document at its meeting on the 22nd July. This assessment is of the Publication Draft Core Strategy.

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)	✓		Consultations carried out on earlier versions of the Core Strategy included publicity (indicating it was available in languages other than English) and direct consultation by letter representative bodies and other groups that may have an interest in the future planning of Darlington. Publication draft is a stage for formal objections and representations. It will indicate on the back cover of the document that it can be made available in languages other than English.	The Publication draft Core Strategy 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 will be notified of the opportunity to make formal objections and representations.	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 will be notified of the opportunity to make formal objections and representations.	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. This is indicated on the back cover of the document. A separate Disability Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.	As above.
Age	✓		As above. Earlier consultations included events specifically with older people (through Growing Older Living in Darlington) and younger people, through the Council's Youth Fora.	As above.
Geographical location	✓		Every effort is being made to identify, for notification of the opportunity to make formal objections and representations, 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.	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 notification of the opportunity to make formal objections and representations, 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

Several consultation stages leading to the preparation of this policy have informed an approach that eliminates as far as possible, any adverse impacts identified.

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

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1. To reflect the 'One Darlington' Priority of the sustainable community strategy, 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 and infrastructure 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 CS2 (Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design), 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.

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

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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>Consultations took place on the Core Strategy: Issues and Options in February 2008, Preferred Options in October-December 2008, and Revised Preferred Options in January and February 2010. A wide range of representative bodies and interest groups, local and national, were consulted at each of these stages, and any responses received have been published on the Council's website, www.darlington.gov.uk/planningpolicy.</p> <p>Racial and national bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission for Racial Equality; • Darlington & Durham County Race Equality Council; • Darlington & District West Indian Association; • Darlington Bangladeshi Association; • Darlington Chinese Association; • Gypsy & Traveller Community; • UK Association of Gypsy Women; • Punjabi and Hindi Association. 	<p>The same bodies and groups - and more if they can be identified - will be notified of the opportunity to make formal objections and representations to the Publication Draft Core Strategy.</p>
Religion or belief	✓		<p>As above. Religious bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contacts at 31 churches, mosques, temples, etc; • Darlington Sikh Association for Women; • Sikh Community Welfare, Cultural Society and Missionary Society; • Darlington Town Mission; • Life & Light Missions; • Islamic Society - Darlington; • Islamic Women's Forum. 	<p>As above.</p>
Gender (inc transvestitism, transgender and transsexuality)	✓		<p>As above. Womens groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Federation of Towns Womens Guilds; • Durham County Federation of Women's Institutes; • National Council of Women; • Soroptimist International of Darlington and District. <p>See also below.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
Sexuality (e.g. homosexuality and bisexuality)	✓		<p>As above. Direct consultation included with Gay Advice Darlington.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
Impairment (e.g. physical)			<p>As above. Groups sent direct consultations included:</p>	<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?
and/or mental impairment)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alzheimer's Disease Society; • Darlington & District Deaf Club; • Darlington Association on Disability; • Darlington Coronary Support Group; • Darlington MIND; • Darlington Society for Mentally Handicapped Children & Adults; • Darlington Society for the Blind; • Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse; • Darlington & District Tinnitus Group; • Guide Dogs for the Blind. 	
Age	✓		<p>As above. Groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Senior Citizens Association; • Age Concern Darlington; • GOLD Members. 	As above.
Geographical location	✓		<p>As above. Location-specific bodies and groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all parish councils and parish meetings in the Borough; • ward councillors; • Community Partnerships for the 11 priority wards; • 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. • community centres and groups in the villages of Bishopton, Brafferton & Coatham Mundeville, Heighington, Hurworth, Middleton St George, Neasham, Sadberge and Summerhouse. 	As above.
Any other status (e.g. people with dependants and/or caring responsibilities or people with a criminal record)	✓		<p>As above. Groups sent direct consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Carers Support Project; • First Stop Darlington; • Refugee & Asylum Seekers Support Group; • North of England Refugee Service; • Sure Start; • Durham County Probation Service; • DBC Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator; • National Offender Management Service. 	As above.

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

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, as resources permit. 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?

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