

## EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

<b>STRATEGY:</b> Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document	<b>Department:</b> Chief Executive's (Regeneration)
<b>Persons Responsible for Assessment:</b> Karen Johnson (Planning Officer), Tim Crawshaw (Principal Urban Design Officer) and Katy Waldock (Planning Policy Technical Officer)	<b>Date of assessment:</b> August 2008

### **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 Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be one of its documents. It will provide detailed design and planning guidance on the location, form and type of new development in Darlington in the Borough. It will help to deliver spatially 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', the new sustainable community strategy. LDF documents are subject to extensive consultation and public participation. Consultations have previously been carried out on the Darlington Characterisation Study. Cabinet is being asked at its meeting on 4th November 2008 to agree the Design of New Development SPD for consultation in late November - December 2008. This assessment is of the SPD.

### **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 SPD 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 and design of Darlington. An executive summary of the document will be produced and publicity material that explains the key issues in plain English.	The SPD 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 and design of Darlington have been identified for direct consultation. Flexibility has been incorporated into the approach to ensure that meeting places that require specific design solutions can be accommodated appropriately in the Borough.	As above.
Gender (inc. transvestitism, transgender and transsexuality)	✓		A range of representatives of gender groups which may have an interest in the future planning and design 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. Disabled people on the Disabilities Equalities	As above.

			Impact Sub Group of DAD will also be involved in assessing the impacts of this plan.	
Age	✓		As above. The option of undertaking a specific consultation event for older people, for example through GOLD, will be considered. Specific consultation events with young people will be undertaken with several junior schools and secondary schools in the Borough.	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 and design of Darlington. These include Darlington Civic Trust, 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 direct consultation representative bodies and other groups which may have an interest in the future planning and design 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.**

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

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**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. The second of eight objectives for the SPD is to 'Ensure that the design of development provides for a form and type of development appropriate to its location to maintain and create attractive, accessible, healthy and inclusive sustainable communities so that everyone has the opportunity to live and work in a decent, safe, high quality environment.
2. The SPD requires development to be designed to ensure equality of access to shops, services, work, local facilities, community facilities, green infrastructure and sport and recreation facilities for all, wherever people live.
3. All development should be designed to ensure access for everyone, including those with disabilities, with impairments and those with young children.
4. Building for life and lifetime homes standards are encouraged in new homes across the Borough

**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)	✓		There has been an earlier Characterisation Study on the SPD in June-July 2008. This work provided the basis of the SPD. As the basis of the SPD is location specific the consultation was undertaken on that basis. A wide range of community and design and heritage interest groups, parish councils, community partnerships and the wider community were consulted. Racial groups were consulted as part of the wider publicity but were not specifically targeted.	The following bodies and groups - and more if they can be identified - will be consulted on the SPD, beginning in January 2008. Racial and national bodies and groups to be sent direct consultations included: <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>
Religion or belief	✓		As above.	As above. Religious bodies and groups to be sent direct consultations included: <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> <li>• Islamic Women's Forum.</li> </ul>
Gender (inc transvestitism, transgender and transsexuality)	✓		As above.	As above. Womens groups to be sent direct consultations included: <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> See also below.
Sexuality (e.g. homosexuality and bisexuality)	✓		As above.	As above. Direct consultation will include the Gay Advice Darlington.
Impairment (e.g. physical)			As above.	As above. Groups to be sent direct consultations included:

and/or mental impairment)	✓			<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>
Age	✓		As above.	<p>As above. Groups to be 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> <li>• School Councils.</li> </ul>
Geographical location	✓		<p>Location-specific bodies and groups were sent direct consultations on the Characterisation Study undertaken in June-July 2008. These 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> <li>• Design interest groups such as Darlington Civic Trust</li> <li>• Workshops were held at The Forum and the Arts Centre in the town and in the villages of</li> </ul>	<p>The location specific bodies and groups - and more if they can be identified - will be consulted on the SPD, beginning in January 2008.</p>

			Sadberge, Middleton St George and Heighington.	
Any other status (e.g. people with dependants and/or caring responsibilities or people with a criminal record)	✓		As above.	As above. Groups to be 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>

**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.

Officers have also attended Evolution workshops on faith awareness and racial awareness this year.

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

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