

Screening Equality Impact Assessment – to identify potential differential impacts on protected groups of any new or changing activities and establish whether a full Equality Impact Assessment is needed.

<b>Service</b>	Planning Services	<b>Officer responsible for the screening/scoping</b>		Ian Mawer, Planning Policy Officer	
<b>Name of the activity to be assessed</b>	Consultation Draft Guildford Community Engagement Strategy	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	8.3.2011	<b>Is this a proposed new or existing activity?</b>	The CES is a new procedure / best practice
<b>1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the activity?</b>		This strategy outlines how we will work together to inform, consult and involve local people in decision making and improving public services in Guildford borough. It is for everybody who has a role to play or who wants to get involved in influencing Guildford's future and enhancing the quality of life for people across the borough.			
<b>2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the activity? Please explain.</b>		<p>The Local Strategic Partnership, in consultation with interested parties, agreed a vision for Guildford Borough to 2026:</p> <p><i>'An attractive, sustainable and prosperous Borough in which people fulfil their potential and the disadvantaged and vulnerable receive the support they need'.</i></p> <p>The vision includes a key objective that sustainable, integrated communities are empowered and engaged. We aim to be responsive to the needs of the community and to involve them in decision-making and shaping the services that affect them. To achieve this information, consultation and involvement must be provided on the right issues targeted at the right people at the right time in an accessible way. The Guildford Local Strategic Partnership is committed to involving and empowering Guildford's residents and communities and we will follow the principles set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be honest and open</li> <li>• Listen to each other views</li> <li>• Include everyone</li> <li>• Work together</li> <li>• Keep in touch</li> </ul>			

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<p><b>3. Who is intended to benefit from this activity and in what way?</b></p>	<p>The strategy outlines how we will work together to inform, consult and involve local people in decision making and improving public services in Guildford borough. It is for everybody who has a role to play or who wants to get involved in influencing the borough's future and enhancing the quality of life for people across the borough. This includes public and private organisations, voluntary and community groups, residents, workers, students and any individual with an interest in how their environment and community evolves</p>		
<p><b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this activity?</b></p>	<p>Empowering and engaging local people so that they have an impact in the ways in which the Council and LSP deliver local services and make local decisions.</p>		
<p><b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b></p>	<p>Resources are required to ensure the effective delivery of the document to monitor and identify those who are not involved and the steps that need to be taken to make sure that they have the opportunity to be involved if they wish.</p> <p>Guildford staff conducting in engagement not being familiar with or understanding the engagement strategy.</p>		
<p><b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the activity?</b></p>	<p>All residents and members of the public</p>	<p><b>7. Who implements the activity, and who is responsible for the activity?</b></p>	<p>Members of the Guildford Local Strategic Partnership including Guildford Borough Council.</p>
<p><b>8. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>		
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>We recognise that there may be challenges in engaging all racial groups through language barriers, or cultural differences. We will therefore seek to accommodate those who have differing requirements so that they are able to participate in engaging with the LSP and Council. Documents can be made available in a range of languages upon request. The LSP and Council will utilise a range of methods to inform and consult to mitigate any differential impact.</p>		
<p><b>9. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u></b></p>			

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<b>have a differential impact on grounds of gender?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b>	We recognise that there may be challenges in engaging all genders, but we consider the range of consultation and engagement methods utilised by the LSP and Council will mitigate any differential impact.
<b>10. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on those who have a disability?</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>We recognise that there are challenges facing people with disabilities. Therefore, the LSP and Council will seek to hold meetings in places that are accessible to those who have mobility issues, and that contain induction loops for those with hearing impairments. Materials can be made available in alternative formats for those who are blind or partially sighted. We consider the above measures will mitigate any differential impact.</p>
<p><b>11. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of sexual orientation?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>We consider that the range of methods used for informing, consulting and involving will mitigate any differential impact on grounds of sexual orientation.</p>
<p><b>12. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of age?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>We recognise that we need to ensure that people of all ages are able engage with the Council and LSP partners, for example by ensuring that young people have a voice and that the elderly can participate. (Social media is used to engage with the Borough's younger residents). In terms of involving elderly residents, neighbourhood meetings and consultation events at a range of locations are organised (e.g. Police Officers and Community Support Officers attending the Guildford farmers market).</p>
<p><b>13. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of religious belief?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

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<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>We recognise that there may be challenges in engaging all religious groups through language cultural or language barriers. We will therefore seek to accommodate those with differing requirements so that they are able to engage with the Council and LSP partners. For example, documents can be made available in a range of languages upon request. A range of engagement methods can be used by the Council and LSP partners to mitigate any differential impact.</p>
<p><b>14. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on those who have caring responsibilities?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The document sets out a wide range of methods that the Council and LSP can utilise to inform, consult and involve. We consider that the range of methods outlined should provide those with caring opportunities with an opportunity to engage, e.g. submitting comments by email or using online forms, telephone interviews, and neighbourhood meetings.</p>
<p><b>15. Are there concerns that the activity could have a differential impact on grounds of marital status or civil partnership?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The document sets out how the Council and LSP will utilise a range of methods to engage with the public. We consider that the document will not result in a differential impact on grounds of marital status or civil partnership.</p>
<p><b>16. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact due a woman's pregnancy or maternity?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>

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<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The document sets out how the Council and LSP will utilise a range of methods to engage the population. We consider that the use of digital media and electronic communications (for both consulting and receiving responses) mitigates any differential impact on grounds of marital status or civil partnership.</p>
<p><b>17. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender reassignment?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The document sets out how the Council and LSP will utilise a range of methods to engage the population. We consider that the document will not result in a differential impact on grounds of gender reassignment.</p>
<p><b>18. Could any differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this activity?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected groups or any other reason?</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>20. If the activity is of a strategic nature, could it help to reduce inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The overarching purpose of the Community Engagement Strategy is to ensure that all of the boroughs resident and working population are informed, consulted and involved in decision making and improving public services in Guildford borough through a wide range of methods. We consider that the strategy will assist in reducing inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.</p>

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<p><b>Business improvement</b></p> <p><b>21. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above protected groups?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	
<p><b>22. Does ‘differential impact’ or ‘unmet need’ cut across one or more of the protected groups (e.g. elder BME groups)?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	
<p><b>23. If yes, should the full EIA be conducted jointly with another service area or contractor or partner or agency?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	
<p><b>24. Is there a missed opportunity to improve this activity to meet the general duties placed on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not?</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	

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<b>25. Should the policy proceed to a full equality impact assessment? Please use the scoring process in the right hand column to guide you.</b>	<b>No</b>	0 – no possible relevance or adverse impact 1 – extremely low relevance and adverse impact 2 – relatively low relevance and adverse impact 3 – medium relevance and adverse impact 4 - relatively high relevance and adverse impact									
		0-11 points low adverse impact, no need for full EIA 12-20points medium adverse impact, full EIA required 21-27 points high adverse impact, full EIA required									
		<b>Age</b>	<b>Disability</b>	<b>Mat</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Trans</b>	<b>Sexuality</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Total</b>
		2	2		1		2		2	9	Low
<b>26. If a full EIA is not required, are there any changes required to the proposal to improve it around the equality agenda?</b>		No, we consider that the document mitigates so far as practically possible, differential impacts upon the groups identified within this screening document.									

**Signed  
(completing officer)**

Ian Mawer

**Date 08.03.11**

**Signed  
(Head of Service)**

Carol Humphrey

**Date 03/05/11**

**Countersigned  
(member of Equality Action Group)**

Sarah-Jane Willmott

**Date 18/05/11**