

# Equality Impact Assessment - Preliminary Assessment Form

<i>Title of the strategy, policy, service or project:</i>		This assessment sets out the overall impact that the Statement of Community Involvement have on a range of equality and diversity characteristics, including the nine protected characteristics defined under the Equality Act 2010
<i>Service Area:</i>	Environmental and Development Service	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Brandon Stacey	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	02/2024	This impact assessment provides an overview of the new Statement of Community Involvement.
<i>Is the strategy, policy, service (procedure) or project:</i>		
<i>Changed</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>New</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

### 1. What is the aim of the strategy, policy, procedure or project?

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a document which details how, when and why individuals, organisations and other stakeholders will be invited by the Council for consultation purposes relating to planning policy and development management. Such matters include plan-making, neighbourhood plans and planning applications. The SCI provides specific information regarding who will be consulted, and at which points during various planning policy and development management processes. It replaces the previous SCI which was adopted in 2018.

Planning Practice Guidance issued by central Government outlines the requirement for the SCI to be reviewed every five years. Consequently, the Council has reviewed our consultation methods to verify that we engage effectively with local communities at all key stages of the planning process. The proposed methods of consultation have not reduced the numerous opportunities for respondents which were available at the time of the adoption of the previous SCI.

Digital technology is creating new ways to get involved in planning, which have been considered in this review. Practices have also been updated following the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 2. Who is intended to benefit from the strategy, policy, procedure or project and how?

The SCI is intended to benefit all relevant stakeholders in the District. The document specifies how numerous methods of community involvement (including emails, online consultation database, website publication, in-person events and social media) will be used to engage with various groups where appropriate.

The SCI provides guidance on how interested individuals and groups may register to receive updates on planning matters including the production of the Local Plan and individual planning applications.

The Local Plan involves various Regulation stages which are detailed in the document, alongside who is involved at each stage.

General consultation bodies identified include interest groups, access groups, businesses, community organisations, faith groups, 'seldom heard' (i.e. young people), schools and residents.

Consultation methods are defined in the documents, including details relating to how each method will be employed and when.

## 3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

The SCI will ensure that all relevant stakeholders are provided with the ability to give feedback in both planning policy and development management processes. Significant phases of policy development and the assessment of site applications as well as planning appeals have specific commitments for consultation engagements. These methods, including the timing of each and what resources are involved are defined throughout the document.

The SCI will provide a helpful guide to anyone who wishes to engage with the planning system in the District and will assist with ensuring that consultations are taken appropriately, with all stakeholders considered for their various consultation needs.

The SCI will assist with contributing towards the Corporate Plan, insofar as providing improvements to the District through ameliorating participation in the planning system as well as contributing towards sustainable development, through satisfactory engagement with stakeholders which will result in the provision of an enhanced public realm and effective land use. Further concerns, such as infrastructure deficits, improvements to the housing stock and employment may be addressed through such consultation and best practice.



	Potentially positive impact	Potentially negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long-term conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex (Gender)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Age

The SCI will seek to obtain the views of all residents, regardless of age. In-person events and online engagements will provide a range of methods for respondents of all ages to respond. Any groups wishing to provide consultation feedback on behalf of 'seldom heard' cohorts such as young people will be considered.

## Disability

In seeking to address the needs of all residents and groups in terms of consultation methods, the SCI specifies various ways in which respondents may engage with consultation phases. Where possible, materials will be provided in Braille for visually impaired residents. A combination of in-person and online methods will be employed to ensure access to all who may wish to engage with the planning system across the District, regardless of physical ability.

## Sex

No differential impacts have been identified for men or women for actions in the strategy.



## **Marriage and Civil Partnership**

No differential impacts have been identified according to marriage or civil partnership for actions in the strategy.

## **Sexual Orientation**

No differential impacts have been identified according to sexual orientation for the actions in the strategy.

## **Race and Ethnicity**

No differential impacts have been identified for people from different ethnic groups for the actions in the strategy.

## **Other factors**

The SCI may provide potentially positive impacts for low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty as the consultation methods will provide opportunities for those without access to the Internet to engage through in-person events as well as by referring to printed materials which will be provided in locations such as libraries and community centres, where appropriate.

## **Religion in South Derbyshire**

The SCI may have potentially positive impacts for religious individuals and groups in the District. Faith groups have been identified as a general consultation body and will be contacted if registered on the consultation database, alongside all other individuals and groups.



### Section 3 – Recommendations and monitoring

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If you have answered that the strategy, policy, procedure or project could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required.

#### 4. Should a full EIA be completed for this strategy, policy, procedure or project?

Yes       No

*Please explain the reasons for this decision:*

As a consultation document, the SCI aims to engage as many individuals and groups as possible (where appropriate) and does not intend to exclude any stakeholder. The document specifies the various methods of consultation which will be used to encourage feedback from respondents across various backgrounds. The SCI will not have any discernibly negative impact on any of the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

### Section 4 – Approval

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Please note the assessment should be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Head of Service **before** the Committee report (if required) is produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service

Name:

Date:

DD/MM/YY



If further information regarding this assessment is required, please contact the Lead Officer for this assessment (outlined in Section 1.)

