

Cotswold District Council Equality Analysis

1. Person responsible for this assessment:

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	Period over which analysis carried out:
	August 2014

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Statement of Community Involvement - Local Plan
(New statement)

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) aims to ensure the active, meaningful and continuous involvement of local communities and stakeholders. It aims to ensure that we consider how to involve the community and benefit from its local knowledge and views. Specifically the document:

- Demonstrates that legal requirements are being met;
- Sets out the overall vision and strategy for community involvement, and how this links with other community involvement initiatives, e.g. the Community Strategy;
- Explains the nature of the Local Plans and supporting documents that require consultation;
- Clearly identifies the range of local community groups who need to be involved;
- Shows that we understand how communities can be involved in a timely and accessible way, and have identified suitable techniques to use;
- Is clear about the different stages of involvement - information, participation, consultation, and feedback – and shows that these will be done in ways that work for the different stages and for the particular communities;
- Shows how the results are to be fed into the preparation the Local Plan and supporting documents;
- Sets out our policy for consultation on planning applications;

- Sets out how we will learn from our experiences and improve the arrangements where necessary;
- Shows we can manage the process effectively.

4. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

Residents
Community, voluntary and specialist groups
Businesses, developers, landowners & agents
Statutory consultation organisations & government departments
Parish, Town and County Councils
Surrounding District and Parish Councils

The document sets out how the different groups will be involved, the techniques to be used etc

5. What outcomes are expected?

- Strengthening of community involvement in the planning process
- Local community and stakeholders know when and how they can get involved
- High quality of community involvement involving as many sectors of the local community as possible
- Recognition of different consultation needs
- Best use of resources for community involvement

6. Please describe how you have engaged with others, including staff, on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function? In particular please describe your engagement with Protected Groups.

Details of engagement:

Consultation took place between 2nd June 2014 and 14th July 2014. People were able to respond on line or by letter/email.

7. Please outline the evidence you have used for this analysis

e.g. Results of recent consultations, surveys or other engagement

Demographic data and other statistics

Feedback from engagement with protected groups

Feedback from the above 6 week period of consultation has been taken into account in preparing the final draft.

The aim of the document is to ensure that consultation on the Local Plan is appropriate for all those in our local communities, and the feedback on this document will be examined to help us make sure that is the case.

8. What effect could your policy, service, strategy, procedure or function have on different groups ?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Please explain the effect	If there is an adverse effect, what mitigating actions are in place or could be taken ? What additional actions can be taken to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?
Age			√	The SCI includes consultation methods aimed at older people and younger people that can be used when appropriate eg. The use of the internet and emails and online consultation may make it more accessible to younger people. Other forms of communication eg radio, TV and local press, along with local meetings and forums should also ensure that all age groups, including older people are catered for.	
Disability			√	Availability of information online may help reduce barriers to involvement for those with physical disabilities. The intention is that offices, public exhibitions/road shows and documents will be accessible to those with disabilities.	
Gender Re-assignment		√			
Marriage and Civil Partnership		√			

<i>(Note: analysis only required for elimination of discrimination)</i>					
Pregnancy and Maternity		√			
Race including Gypsy & Traveller			√	The SCI includes consultation methods designed to reach all groups including 'hard to reach' groups. Community organisations representing racial/ethnic Groups (eg Race Equality Council) are also included in the document as organisations that should be consulted wherever appropriate	
Religion or Belief			√	The SCI includes consultation methods designed to reach all groups including 'hard to reach' groups. Religious bodies are also included in the document as organisations that should be consulted wherever appropriate	
Sex			√	The wide variety of consultation methods which will be employed should enable both sexes to have an equal opportunity to be involved.	
Sexual Orientation		√			

Other groups/issues <i>(eg Long term unemployed, Rural Isolation)</i>			√	Rural isolation - The document is clear that meetings/forums will be held in local communities and every parish and town council will be involved, to ensure that the views of rural communities are heard.	
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9. Where actions have been identified, please complete the table below.

Future Action	Timescale	Who will deliver?	Resource implications	Comments
None identified				

Declaration

We are satisfied that an Equality Analysis has been properly carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function. We understand that the Analysis is required by the Council and we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this analysis.

Completed by: Mike Clark

Date: 20th August 2014

Role: Corporate Planning Manager

Date considered by Corporate Diversity Group: Not yet considered

Date for Review: To be agreed