Our Local Plan

Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18)

Equalities Impact Assessment

August 2017
Local Plan – Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18)

Equalities Impact Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 Under the Equalities Act 2010, the Council has a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The purpose of the General Equality Duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the Council’s day-to-day business. This means giving appropriate weight and priority to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages;
- Take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and
- Encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life.

1.2 In order to have regard to the aims of the General Equality Duty when drafting policies an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the Tandridge Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18) has been undertaken. The purpose of the EqIA is to show the likely impact of the Plan and the policies on the groups with protected characteristics and if necessary modify and improve the Plan and policies where possible.

1.3 For the purpose of the assessment the groups with the following protected characteristics (as defined by the Equalities Act 2010) are considered:

- Race - people of different races and ethnic backgrounds including Gypsies and Travellers, refugees / asylum seekers and non-British European;
- Age - e.g. older people, children and young people;
- Sex - men or women;
- Disability - e.g. physical, sensory, mental or learning impairment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Religion or belief - e.g. religious/faith or other groups with a recognised belief system;
- Sexual orientation - e.g. heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual; and
- Gender reassignment - e.g. transsexual, transgender.

2. The Equalities Impact Assessment

2.1 Equalities Impact Assessments can be carried out in two stages- an initial screening and if required, a full assessment. A full assessment will be required if there is a high negative impact identified at stage 1. The initial screening considers the impact of the policy, strategy, function or project on the groups with protected characteristics. Policies, strategies, functions or projects can have either a positive or negative impact. In carrying out the screening it is necessary to include any potential inequalities of outcome which may result from socio-economic disadvantage.
A. Name of Policy, Strategy, Function or Project being assessed:

Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18)

B. Officers responsible for carrying out the assessment

Initial assessment: Georgina Brightwell – Policy Officer, Tandridge DC
Checked and verified: Becky Smith – Senior Planning Policy Officer, Tandridge DC

C. What is the main purpose and objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Function or Project being assessed?

In March 2017, to guide the preparation of the Local Plan going forward, the Council agreed a Preferred Strategy which seeks to deliver a strategic development that accords with the principles of a Garden Village to meet long-term development needs for the district, as part of a hybrid approach. The Garden Village will accommodate a mix of homes, employment and supporting infrastructure.

The Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation document presents the locations that are considered to have potential to accommodate a Garden Village, with associated infrastructure in light of the evidence that has been gathered. This includes landscape and ecology findings, flood risk evidence as well deliverability and infrastructure considerations that are fundamental in bringing forward strategic, large-scale development successfully and sustainably. The consultation invites comments on the locations as well as the proposed vision, principles and objectives for the Garden Village.

D. What are the main issues relating to diversity within the Policy, Strategy, Function or Project?

The Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation document presents the locations that are considered to have potential to accommodate a Garden Village. At this stage in the plan making process, the decisions regarding types of property and tenure are yet to be determined, but will be confirmed as the plan making process continues. The identified needs of all areas of the community for jobs, homes and infrastructure are embedded throughout the Council's plan making process.

E. Who will you need to consult with, both internally and externally, and how will you do it?

The Council is required to consult with statutory consultees and, if considered to be appropriate, organisations, businesses and residents. The Council has taken the decision to invite comments from all of the sectors of the community. To do this, the Planning Policy Team will email or write to all individuals and organisations on its consultee database, which contains over 5300 sets of contact details, to inform them of the consultation. Groups on the database include those that represent certain sections of the community, for example those that represent the elderly population and gypsies and travellers.

In order to bring the consultation to the attention of the wider community, the Council will also deliver leaflets to households across the district, issue press releases, send tweets from the Council's corporate Twitter account and place posters in railway stations. The Council will place the Tandridge Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18) document on its webpages, as well as accompanying documents. Copies of the documents will also be available to view at the district’s libraries, Horley and Edenbridge libraries and the Council Offices in Oxted.
The Tandridge Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18) document will be brought to the attention of staff in staff briefings and through the Council’s intranet and members of the staff are not excluded from responding to the consultation.

F. Stage 1: The following table considers if the plan has a positive or negative impact on the Protected Characteristics identified under the Equality Act 2010.
### Stage 1: Assessment of potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

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3 Conclusions

3.1 The Tandridge Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18) document does not make any decisions and instead invites comments from all sectors of the community, including those with protected characteristics, on locations that are considered to have potential to accommodate a Garden Village. The consultation document is not anticipated to unfairly disadvantage any particular section of the community with protected characteristics.

3.2 Overall, the Tandridge Local Plan: Garden Villages Consultation (Regulation 18) document is not assessed to have a significant effect on those with protected characteristics as it not a document that makes decisions. As a result, a full assessment is not required.

Date completed: August 2017

Date of revision: August 2017