

Title of proposed EIA	Development Management in Birmingham Submission
Reference No	EQUA510
EA is in support of	New Policy
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of first review	01/04/2021
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Planning and Regeneration
Service Area	Planning Policy
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Martin Dando
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Woodland
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Uyen-Phan Han
Purpose of proposal	Sets out non-strategic planning policies for the determination of planning applications
Data sources	Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies; relevant research
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Wider Community
Age details:	<p>In general, the DMB provides policies which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and a connected city. This will have positive impacts on people of all ages. The policies have evolved and been adapted following consultation which has been carried out in line with relevant guidance and best practice including the principles set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019). The approach to public consultation has been City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting citizens of all ages to ensure needs are met and adverse impacts on any particular age group are minimised or eliminated.</p> <p>Some policies in particular will have a positive impact age characteristics as follows:</p> <p>The proposed Air Quality policy (DM1) will particularly benefit children, young</p>

with particularly benefit children, young people and the elderly who are more vulnerable to air pollution by ensuring that developments for sensitive uses such as schools and residences should be located away from major sources/areas of air pollution. If not, such developments must be designed and sited to reduce exposure to air pollutants by incorporating mitigation measures. Responses to the consultation in relation to this policy were, in general, supportive particularly in relation to school development. No issues were raised by any specific groups representing particular age groups or characteristics.

The proposed Standards for Residential Development policy (DM10) will help to support the ageing population and the specific needs of people with mobility problems by requiring housing of 15 or more dwellings to provide at least 30% of dwellings as accessible and adaptable homes in accordance with Building Regulation Part M4 (2) unless demonstrated to be financially unviable. Building accessible housing can make a substantial difference to quality of life and ensure that future need is delivered throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

DM10 also seeks to adopt the minimum Nationally Described Space Standards for all residential development to ensure the achievement of high quality residential environments and internal and outdoor space to protect the health and well-being of residents of existing and new dwellings. The quality of new housing in the city (including implementation of the internal space and access standards) has a role to play in addressing health and wellbeing. Wide support was received for this policy approach during the consultation subject to evidence and viability particularly to ensure that affordability is maintained whilst

delivering on the principles of the Policy. However, no specific groups representing particular age groups or characteristics provided any direct comments.

The proposed policy on Day nurseries and childcare provision (DM9) will help to ensure that the development of such facilities is well located and provides suitable and sufficient indoor and outdoor space play space to meet the needs of children. Again, the policy is generally welcomed but no specific issues were raised from particular groups during the consultation aside from issues of clarity and detail which are proposed to be provided as part of the Submission document.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Disability details:

Wider Community

The document is part of a suite of local plan documents which seek to plan for the development needs of all including the needs of people with disabilities. Detailed technical design matters and needs are addressed in specific dedicated documents e.g. Access for People with Disabilities SPD and the Birmingham Design Guide SPD.

In general, the DMB provides policies which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and a connected city. This will have positive impacts on people with disabilities.

The proposed Parking and Servicing policy (DM15) sets out the need to ensure that parking provision in new development is at an appropriate level for its location as set out in the Council's Parking Supplementary Planning Document. This will benefit people with disabilities by setting out clear standards for disabled parking provision so that all new developments include adequate parking for people with disabilities.

The proposed Standards for

Residential Development policy (DM10) will help to support the ageing population and the specific needs of people with mobility problems by requiring housing of 15 or more dwellings to provide at least 30% of dwellings as accessible and adaptable homes in accordance with Building Regulation Part M4 (2) unless demonstrated to be financially unviable. Building accessible housing can make a substantial difference to quality of life and ensure that future need is delivered throughout the lifetime of the Plan. However, viability issues of enforcing such a policy may compromise the delivery of affordable housing. This may result in compromise solutions to maximise benefits for the whole range of protected characteristics.

DM10 also seeks to adopt the minimum Nationally Described Space Standards for all residential development to ensure achieve high quality residential environments and internal and outdoor space to protect the health and well-being of residents of existing and new dwellings. The quality of new housing in the city (including implementation of the internal space and access standards) has a role to play in addressing health and wellbeing and ensuring the adequate supply of suitable homes to meet the requirements of people with disabilities whilst maximising benefits for all groups with protected characteristics.

Proposed policy on residential conversions and specialist accommodation (DM13) (which can include supported accommodation for older people and people with mental health, learning disabilities, dementia, physical and sensory impairment) promotes the development of high quality residential accommodation and facilities, including provision for safety and security, is suitable for the intended occupiers. This policy has the full support of all those responding to

full support of all those responding to the Consultation carried out prior to this stage.

Although groups representing people with disabilities were consulted during the preparation of the DMB, no specific comments were received from such groups. General comments were received in support of the policy approach and, although the evidence base has now been strengthened to further substantiate the policies, no significant alterations are proposed to be made to any of the policies following consultation.

Protected characteristic: Gender

Gender details:

Wider Community

The policies have evolved and been adapted following previous consultation which has been carried out in line with relevant guidance and best practice including the principles set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019). The approach to public consultation has been City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups.

In general, the DMB provides flexible policies which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and a connected city. This will have positive impacts on all people and no adverse comments have been received in relation to gender during consultation on the DMB.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Not Applicable

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Not Applicable

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

The policies have evolved and been adapted following previous consultation which was carried out in line with relevant guidance and best practice including the principles set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019). The approach to public consultation has been City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups.

The proposed policy on Day nurseries and childcare provision (DM9) is relevant to this characteristic as it will help to ensure that the development of such facilities is well located and provides suitable and sufficient indoor and outdoor space play space to meet the needs of children. Again, the policy is generally welcomed but no specific issues were raised from particular groups during the consultation aside from issues of clarity and detail which are proposed to be provided as part of the Submission document.

Protected characteristics: Race

Race details:

Wider Community

The policies have evolved and been adapted following previous consultation which was carried out in line with relevant guidance and best practice including the principles set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019). The approach to public consultation has been City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups.

A consultation statement has been developed in parallel to the DMB document to set out how the public consultation has been carried out. A database of consultees for planning documents ensures that a wide range

of groups, organisations and individuals are consulted representing all communities and all protected characteristics. In general, the DMB provides flexible policies which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and a connected city. This will have positive impacts on all people and no issues have been raised by specific groups during consultation in relation to race.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Religion or beliefs details:

Wider Community

The DMB document contains a proposed policy (DM8) on 'Places of worship and other faith-related community facilities' to make provision and provide positive policies for the location of such places and may have some impact on this particular protected characteristic. The preferred location of such uses is sought primarily within the network of urban centres identified in the Birmingham Development Plan.

The consultation process included specific religious and belief groups. However, although comments were made by individuals and other organisations, there were no comments received from specific religious or faith groups. Overall comments received were generally supportive particularly after the Policy had been simplified following previous consultation. This was to provide sufficient flexibility for locations outside of the network of centres to be considered where they are well located to the population the premises is to serve or is well served by means of walking, cycling and public transport.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

In general, the DMB provides policies

which seek to ensure the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and a connected city to have a positive impact on all protected characteristics. The policies have evolved and been adapted following consultation which has been carried out in line with relevant guidance and best practice including the principles set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019). The approach to public consultation has been City wide but made as relevant as possible to the community profile of the City as well as targeting particular groups or representatives of specific groups.

A consultation statement has been developed in parallel to the DMB document to set out how the public consultation has been carried out. A database of consultees for planning documents ensures that a wide range of groups, organisations and individuals are consulted to ensure needs of particular communities are met and adverse impacts on any particular groups such as the LGBTQ community are negated. No issues have been raised by specific groups during consultation in relation to sexual orientation.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

All the comments received following consultation on the DMB Publication Document in January to February 2020 have been analysed which have resulted in some minor changes proposed for the wording of the final version of the document. This Equalities Analysis has also been updated to reflect the latest comments received, however with no further impacts or actions arising as well as no issues having been raised by any particular groups representing any of the protected characteristics .

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal? The DMB is backed by an extensive evidence base to justify each proposed policy within the document. It has also been informed by national and local planning policies, guidance and evidence produced by the Government, the Council and its partners. It has also drawn upon the evidence base which informed the development of the Birmingham Development Plan. Evidence reports have also been specifically prepared for this DMB which form the background to the policy formation process. The evidence base supporting the DMB can be found on the DMB page of the Council's website at www.birmingham.gov.uk/DMB. The most recent consultation on the Publication version of the document raised some questions as to whether certain elements of the evidence base was sufficiently detailed enough to warrant the proposed policy approach which has prompted this evidence to be revisited and strengthened.

Consultation analysis

This analysis has been updated following consultation on the DMB Publication Document in January to February 2020. All contacts on the Planning Policy Consultation Database were consulted including groups representing different groups (age, gender, race, religion etc) to ensure their views were taken into account. All the comments received have been analysed. There were no comments from any groups representing the protected characteristics or specifically in relation to the protected characteristics themselves.

A consultation statement has been developed in parallel to the DMB document to set out how the public consultation has been carried out at each particular stage in the evolution of the DMB document which further reflects how the consultations were carried out.

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

The proposed policies are not predicted to have an adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. Indeed, all the policies are expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring that development is guided to the right location, is of a high standard, enhances quality of life and protects the environment. This assumption has been further tested through this latest consultation stage and will receive further rigorous testing through a public examination of the document and its policies to be independently carried out later on in 2020 by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?

The DMB has been modified to take account of some issues which may have had an adverse impact in terms of Equality. Examples of this include making Policy DM8 on Places of worship and other faith related community facilities more flexible to be able to adapt to the diverse needs of different faith communities. A further example relates to Policy DM9 on Day nurseries and early years provision where the policy was changed to include explicit need for sufficient outdoor play space for improved quality of life for children within such nursery facilities. Minor changes are proposed as a result of this latest consultation but, following analysis, will not impact on any groups or individuals with the protected characteristics.

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

The DMB contains a monitoring framework to monitor the effectiveness of the policies once adopted. This will be reported annually through the City Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

What data is required in the future?

Further evidence where necessary to justify a continued approach or modify the approach if any adverse issues or impacts arise during annual monitoring.

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)

No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

Analysis of consultation responses has enabled further scrutiny of the Document and its policies to ensure compliance with the Equality Act and minimise any potential impacts on the protected characteristics.

The proposed policies in the DMB are not predicted to have an adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics. Indeed, all the policies are expected to have a positive impact on the community by ensuring that development is guided to the right location, is of a high standard, enhances quality of life and protects the environment. This assumption will be tested throughout the final stages of the plan-making process when the plan is submitted for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the soundness of the DMB and its policies, ensure its compliance with the Equality Act (amongst other legal requirements) and verify the analysis of the impacts on any groups or individuals with the protected characteristics.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?	No
Quality Control Officer comments	
Decision by Quality Control Officer	Proceed for final approval
Submit draft to Accountable Officer?	No
Decision by Accountable Officer	Approve
Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer	19/05/2020
Reasons for approval or rejection	
Please print and save a PDF copy for your records	Yes

Julie Bach

Person or Group

Content Type: Item

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Last modified at 19/05/2020 12:07 PM by Workflow on behalf of Uyen-Phan Han

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