

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Revocation of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	John Devonshire

A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity? Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

The aim of this activity is to revoke three separate Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents, the Addlestone Town Centre Strategy (1999), Residential Extensions and Replacement Dwellings in the Green Belt (2004) and Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows (2003). The reason for revocation is that the three SPG documents are out of date, are no longer supported by Local Plan policies and have largely been replaced by up to date national and local planning policy and supplementary documents. The three SPGs are therefore redundant and would have little or no weight in the consideration of planning applications.

Guidance in the Addlestone Town Centre SPG has been superseded by Policy IE6 of the 2030 Local Plan as well as the Design SPD (2021), Parking SPD (2022) and the Community Infrastructure Levy. The sites identified in the SPG for potential development have all now been redeveloped.

The Residential Extensions & Replacement Dwellings in the Green Belt SPG has been superseded by Policies EE1 and EE14 of the 2030 Local Plan as well as the Design SPD.

The Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows SPG has been superseded by Policy EE11 of the 2030 Local Plan, The Design SPD as well as the Green & Blue Infrastructure SPD (2021).

As such, revocation will not affect any employees or service users on the basis of (a) protected characteristic(s) they have. Any effects it has on the wider Borough community, including those groups with protected characteristics is likely to be neutral given that the three SPG are superseded by more up to date policies and guidance, all of which have been subject to EqiA themselves.

B. Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality? Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential on the basis of adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination. The Protected Characteristics are: Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

It is not considered that there will be any potential negative impacts on any protected characteristics if the three SPG are revoked given that they have been superseded by more up to date policy and guidance and would carry little or no weight in decision taking.

The EqIA for Policies EE1, EE11 & IE6 of the 2030 Local Plan identified high/low positive or neutral effects against the 9 protected characteristics.

The EqIA screening for the Design SPD (which to some degree supersedes the Residential Extensions & Replacement Dwellings in the Green Belt SPG) identified no negative effects on the 9 protected characteristics and positive effects against age, race and disability.

The EqIA screening for the Green & Blue Infrastructure SPD (which to some degree supersedes the Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows SPG) found no negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics and positive impacts on disability and age.

The EqIA screening for the Parking SPD (which to some degree supersedes the Addlestone Town Centre Strategy SPG) found no negative impacts on the 9 characteristics and positive impacts on disability and age.

2030 Local Plan Policy EE14 was identified as having neutral impacts on 7 of the protected characteristics but low negative against age and disability. This was on the basis that Green Belt policy restricts housing development which in turn restricts the supply of specialist housing. However, the Residential Extensions & Replacement Dwellings in the Green Belt SPG set out the Council's interpretation of previous national and local Green Belt policy rather than dealing with housing supply. As such the negative impacts identified for Policy EE14 are not relatable to any of the SPG.

As such where Local Plan policies and SPD supersede guidance in the three SPG impacts have found to be either neutral or positive.

The procedure for revoking SPG does not afford any opportunity for public consultation and as such it will not be possible to identify any unforeseen negatives impacts at this stage. However, the EqIAs for the 2030 Local and SPDs identify continued monitoring of policy which may reveal impacts at a later date and can be taken into account on review.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not

engage any protected characteristics then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities please complete Part C.

C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion? Alternatively, if there it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

It is not considered that a full EqIA is required for the following reasons:

- **It is not anticipated that the revocation of the three SPG will have any negative impacts on any of the nine protected characteristics. This is on the basis that 2030 Local Plan policies and guidance in adopted SPD largely supersede the advice in the three SPGs and the 2030 Local Plan policies and SPD EqiA & screenings have identified neutral or positive impacts on the 9 protected characteristics.**

Date completed: 22/03/2023

Sign-off by senior manager: Georgina Pacey 22/03/2023