

# EQUALITY SCREENING

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

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Infrastructure Delivery & Prioritisation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as amended June 2020	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 the Infrastructure Delivery & Prioritisation SPD is to set out which infrastructure projects or types the Council will prioritise for funding raised from developer contributions and its approach to seeking contributions from both the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106. The SPD is needed to ensure that the Council prioritises funding from developer contributions towards infrastructure projects which must come forward to deliver the Local Plan and to advise and on what basis the Council can seek contributions through the Section 106 process. The SPD will help the Council achieve provision of new or improvements to existing infrastructure in a hierarchy approach. The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) notes on CIL and Planning Obligations will ensure the SPD works as intended. The SPD will also be a material consideration in taking decisions on planning applications.

Since publication of the first draft SPD for consultation in February 2020 the following main amendments to the SPD are proposed as follows: -

- Clarification of the Council's approach to negotiating contributions towards repayment of the HIF loan;
- Addition of Blue Infrastructure to the list of infrastructure types;
- Confirmation the Council will not request financial contributions through Section 106 toward infrastructure projects physically provided by a development other than for management/maintenance;
- Placing a cap on the monitoring contribution per Section 106 agreement;
- Clarification of how net dwellings/occupants should be calculated;
- Confirming a formula based approach to contributions at outline stage where deemed appropriate;
- Signposting that infrastructure for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) may be negotiated;
- Referencing the Playing Pitch Strategy for Outdoor Sports Contributions;
- Adding the methodology used to calculate estimated net floorspace from sites contingent on A320 improvements.

The SPD will not affect employees or service users and any effect on the wider community is likely to be beneficial through provision of new or improvements to existing infrastructure. The amendments proposed to the SPD as set out above do not change this conclusion.

**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.

**There are currently no known potential negative impacts on any protected characteristics if the SPD as amended were to be adopted. There are anticipated to be positive outcomes due to the combination of the SPD and a CIL charging schedule which will have a general benefit.**

**A review of the comments received following the public consultation has been undertaken and no implications in terms of equalities have been raised. A review of the comments received following the next public consultation of the amended SPD will be undertaken and any implications in terms of equalities will be discussed with the Equality Group. It is considered that continued monitoring of this SPD will take place after it is adopted which may reveal any positive or negative impacts that exist and will assist officers in providing measures that seek to mitigate any negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics.**

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.

**The amended SPD continues to set out a hierarchy of which infrastructure types or projects should be prioritised for funding through developer contributions. This is required in order to ensure delivery of the infrastructure required to support the vision, objectives and spatial strategy of the Local Plan which will likely benefit everyone who lives and works in the Borough of Runnymede.**

**The SPD also sets out the Council's approach to CIL and S106, however this is governed by the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and government guidance.**

**It is considered that a full impact assessment is not required for the SPD as amended.**

Date completed: 15 July 2020

Sign-off by senior manager: Georgina Pacey 15/07/2020