

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	REG/Spatial Policy Team
Lead Officer	Peter Ollivere
Title	Parking and Accessibility Standards
MTFP Reference (if relevant)	N/A
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	April 2022
Start Date	January 2020
Review Date	9 th July 2021

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will address both residential and non-residential parking and accessibility in County Durham. The Local Plan for County Durham (the County Durham Plan) was adopted in October 2020, with Policy 21 setting out some basic criteria for car, cycle, and electric vehicle parking. Policy 21 also states that a full Parking and Accessibility SPD will be prepared having regard to the principles set out in the policy, which would then be a material consideration in assessing development proposals. The Plan is the subject of its own EQIA.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Anyone who lives in, works in, studies in, visits, or has an interest in County Durham may be interested in the Parking and Accessibility SPD. This includes the general public, Council Staff, Elected Members, developers and landowners,

various partners, stakeholders from various sectors and interest groups or communities, and statutory consultees as defined by the Government.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	N
Religion or Belief	N	N
Sex (gender)	N	N
Sexual orientation	N	N
Transgender	N	N

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

Negative impact is not anticipated as the strategy aims to enhance transport networks.

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

There is potential for both direct and indirect positive impacts for all of the protected characteristics groups. This Equalities Impact Assessment includes examples of positive effects from the SPD.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?
Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

The Parking and Accessibility SPD aims to improve parking and access in the county and therefore help its communities, economy and environment. It aims for equality of opportunity across all equality protected characteristics. There is national, regional and local evidence available which shows that people from protected groups can face barriers in employment, access to services and information, participation in decision making and in consultation.

Evidence from the Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) suggests for example that deprivation links to protected characteristics, such as children from deprived areas being more prone to obesity or other health problems. Access to education, health, community, and other facilities can help with health problems and improve quality of life, and improvement of sustainable travel modes and uptake in their use will improve the quality of life for all by reducing air pollution and congestion. Census 2011 and equality related evidence from the Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) has been used in section two of this assessment.

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2389/2011-Census>

Extensive consultation is due to take place on the Parking and Accessibility SPD and the preceding Issues and Options paper. Following this, any relevant data arising from the consultation will be fed into the impact assessment and any mitigating actions will be considered at that point prior to adoption

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	N

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: 	Date: 10/12/20
Service equality representative sign off:	Date:

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Record of evidence to support or explain your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The Parking and Accessibility SPD aim to reduce by ensuring that there are standards for residential and non-residential parking in the county.</p> <p>The SPD aims to address the active travel needs of young people, whether the very young or the student population by providing for cycle parking at educational establishments and student accommodation.</p> <p>The SPD also aims to increase the participation of the working population in sustainable travel and provide more secure cycle parking at workplaces. It also provides adequate workplace parking for EV and non-EV modes.</p> <p>The SPD also covers Nursing and Older Person's Accommodation. The SPD covers public transport accessibility which can be beneficial for younger and older people who may be less likely to have their own cars.</p>	<p>Between 2001 and 2011 the population of County Durham increased from 493,678 to 513,242, an increase of 4.0% which is higher than the 2.2% rise seen in the region but lower than the 7.1% seen across England & Wales.</p> <p>The 2016 mid-year population estimate for County Durham shows a population of 521,800 an increase of 4,027 people since mid-2014 and a 5.9% increase since 2001. County Durham has experienced a higher rate of growth than the north east region (3.3% over the period 2001-2015), but a considerably lower rate of growth when compared to England as a whole (10.8% from 2001-2015). The 2014-based SNPP for County Durham projects population growth from 517,773 in 2014 to 565,972 in 2039, a change of 48,199 (9.3%). Over the plan period (2016-2035) the ONS baseline population is projected to grow from 522,218 to 560,200, a change of 37,982 (7.3%).</p>	<p>1) Impact will be assessed through the consultation stage.</p> <p>2) Particularly focussed consultation with both older people and young people should take place as part of the consultation on the SPD.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The Parking and Accessibility SPD aims to reduce inequalities by setting out standards for disabled parking in the county.</p> <p>The SPD ensures that all new developments in County Durham comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 by providing appropriate levels of car parking for those with mobility issues.</p> <p>Access for emergency vehicles will be improved as maximum parking standards will not feature in new developments. The document is more focused on ensuring that new developments provide an appropriate level of parking. Emergency vehicles such as ambulances may be used more by those with disabilities.</p> <p>The design hierarchy specifically puts mobility impaired and disabled persons at the top, followed by pedestrians; cyclists; public transport users; then car drivers, particularly of electric cars.</p>	<p>County Durham has a higher percentage of people with long term health issues and disabled people than the North East average, representing nearly a quarter of the overall population.</p> <p>The INA identified that “Personal safety” is the highest critical need identified for people with learning difficulties.</p> <p>New development must provide an adequate amount of disabled persons bays and ensure that the dimensions meet the minimum requirements set out in the SPD . As per the quantity of parking standards, where non-residential development is concerned, a minimum of two bays will be included for disabled people, with a minimum 5% of car park bays being for disabled people in car parks of 20 spaces or more.</p> <p>Following the first consultation, 10% of all electric vehicle chargepoints provided will be at disabled parking bays to enable people with blue badges to use an EV.</p> <p>Additionally, the SPD now asks, where 20 or more cycling spaces are provided, for 5% of cycle parking to be suitable for modified or three-</p>	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>2) Reasonable adjustments to wording will be made where required.</p> <p>3) Engagement with disability groups will be carried out as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>4) Particularly focussed consultation with both older people and disabled people should take place as part of the consultation on the SPD.</p>

	wheel cycles used by people with disabilities, to enable them to cycle with the confidence that there will be somewhere safe to leave their bike. Cycling parking for disabled people should be located close to disabled car parking bays where possible.	
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Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A	N/A	

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The SPD aims to reduce inequalities by ensuring that development is accessible to all.</p> <p>The design hierarchy specifically puts mobility impaired (which could include pregnant women and people with young children) persons at the top, followed by pedestrians; cyclists; public transport users; then car drivers, including of electric cars.</p>	The SPD advocates measures to improve accessibility by public transport, and for those with limited mobility.	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>2) Particularly focussed consultation will take place as part of the consultation on the Standards with the Access for All Group.</p> <p>3) Consideration will be given to parking for parents and children in drafting the SPD</p>

Protected Characteristic: Race (ethnicity)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The SPD aims to reduce inequalities by ensuring that	In County Durham ethnic minority communities are a relatively small proportion of	As 1) above

<p>public and sustainable travel is accessible to all.</p> <p>The SPD covers Places of Worship and Community Centres which can be associated with different cultures and ethnicity.</p>	<p>the population. According to the 2011 Census, 98.1% of Durham's population is white British. 1.9% is 'other ethnic group', the largest component of this being mixed race and Asian. We also have a significant population of Gypsies and Travellers who are either migrant or settled in the County.</p>	<p>2) Translation and interpretation requests will be considered in line with corporate guidance.</p> <p>3) Consultation should include Gypsy, Roma and Traveller wardens to ensure that those communities are aware of the document and given opportunity to comment.</p>
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Protected Characteristic: Religion or belief		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The SPD aims to reduce inequalities by ensuring that public and sustainable travel is accessible to all.</p> <p>The Standards cover Places of Worship and Community Centres.</p>	<p>In County Durham 72 percent of people state their religion as Christian; around 0.2% percent as Buddhist; 0.1% Hindu; 0.40% Muslim, 0.11% Sikh, 0.04% Jewish and 27 percent as having either no religion or not stating their religion (Census 2011).</p>	<p>As 1) above</p>

Protected Characteristic: Sex (gender)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The SPD aims to improve parking and accessibility for both men and women. Equality of opportunity for all is an overall aim.</p> <p>The SPD includes themes which are relevant to gender such as employment, accessibility, and public transport accessibility.</p>	<p>There are 251,280 (49 percent) men and 261,962 (51 percent) women living in County Durham (Census 2011). There is a higher proportion of women in older age groups (aged 70+).</p>	<p>As 1) above</p>

Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The SPD aims to reduce inequalities by encouraging sustainable travel and making it accessible to all.	No accurate data is available about the number of lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in County Durham. However Government and Stonewall estimates state that between 5 percent and 7 percent of the population is lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). This would amount to between 25,000 and 35,000 people in County Durham.	As 1) above

Protected Characteristic: Transgender		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The issues of personal safety, crime and fear of crime are relevant to transgender people and can be affected by accessibility.	We have no accurate information on transgender populations. Transgender – lack of local information/evidence on transgender issues; privacy and data protection.	As 1) above

Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.

This is an equality impact assessment of the Parking and Accessibility SPD which has been produced in line with Government policy. The SPD aims to provide an appropriate level of parking for cars and bikes at origins and destinations of journeys and sets basic accessibility standards. The SPD will be prepared in line with the County Durham Plan. It aims to promote equality through its objectives and particularly better access to developments in the county, therefore making communities more sustainable with greater options for how they travel.

The Parking and Accessibility SPD has potential to have impacts on many protected characteristic groups, but the aims and objectives should have a broadly positive impact on all groups.

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

Parking standards are important to make development accessible and communities more sustainable. Sustainable communities are communities in which people wish to live work and spend time - "They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all."

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
1) Issues and Options document to be consulted upon and take into account any further comments on content or wording.	Policy Officer, Spatial Planning Team Spatial Policy Manager	January-February 2021	Consultation draft SPD
2) SPD to be consulted upon once drafted and any comments on content or wording to be taken into account.	Principal Policy Manager Spatial Policy Manager	April 2022	Final document

Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	Y
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	Prior to Adoption

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: 	Date: 7/02/22
Service equality representative sign off: 	Date: 9/2/22

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Please return the completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk