



**ROCHDALE**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **Draft Littleborough Station Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

**September 2021**

## **ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a measure that public authorities often carry out prior to implementing a policy, with a view to ascertaining its potential impact on equality. Such assessments are not required by law, although are a way of facilitating and evidencing compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

This Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared as a supporting document for the Littleborough Station Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD has been produced to support and guide appropriate development, change, investment and improvements in the future of the area over the next 10 to 15 years.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment and Target Groups**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to ensure the proposed SPD for the Littleborough Station Area integrates the best outcome for those affected by spatial development and mitigates any negative impacts, in respect of the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age;
- Disability; (Disability Discrimination Act 2005, GLA Disability Equality Scheme 2005, Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001)
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race; (Race Relations Act 1976, Amendment 2000, Amendment Regulations 2003)
- Religion or belief;
- Sex; (Sex Discrimination Act 1975); and
- Sexual orientation.

This EqIA is an opportunity to consider whether a policy, strategy or approach, affects all groups in the same way or whether there are is a significant positive, negative or neutral impact on particular groups before a policy is formally introduced.

On the whole, EqIAs should make sure that equality is placed at the centre of policy development, highlighting the likely impact of the policy on the target groups and to take action to improve the policies where appropriate as a result or to demonstrate the potential benefits.

## Appendix 1 Equality Impact Proforma

<b>Department</b>	Strategic Planning	<b>Section</b> Economy	<b>Person responsible for the assessment</b>	Kirsty Nicholls	
<b>Name of the Policy to be assessed</b>	Littleborough Station Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	24/8/21	<b>Is this a new or existing policy</b>	Expanding on Core Strategy policies SP2.
<b>1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy</b>	<p>The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to guide planning decisions relating to the Littleborough Station area. The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide a development strategy for the Littleborough Station area. It outlines potential development opportunities within the area, establishing the principles and parameters to guide future development for the next 10-15 years in the surrounding area. Specifically looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce new residential uses that provides for a mix of types and densities in close proximity to the station;</li> <li>• Define a village 'heart' centred around the junction of Church Street/Hare Hill Road and station approach</li> <li>• Improve the arrival/gateway experience at the railway station and connectivity to the village centre;</li> <li>• Increase the station parking provision;</li> <li>• Accommodate a bus interchange with rail services;</li> <li>• Improve the pedestrian/cyclist experience, with greater priority given to sustainable modes of travel across the town centre;</li> <li>• Refurbishment of the railway arches and disused buildings for commercial uses;</li> <li>• Improve the existing public realm accommodating local servicing and parking requirements in addition to maintaining through route;</li> <li>• Create opportunities for street tree planting;</li> <li>• Create opportunities for cycle parking;</li> <li>• Provide for public open space and links to the canal towpath (and beyond)</li> <li>• Complementary residential infill development, reinstating street frontages to Peel Street/Victoria Street</li> </ul>				
<b>2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain</b>	<p>The SPD supports the main objectives set out within the Masterplan prepared on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council and includes a programme of significant consultation with the local</p>				

	community and local partners. It identified a range of interventions required to improve the physical appearance of the area including quality and design of the public spaces, better access and connectivity within the area and to the Town Centre and surround areas, and a mixed neighbourhood offering a range of community and residential offerings to facilitate wider improvements and contribute positively to housing market option and improvement.
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<b>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way</b>		Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Local businesses, Developers, Councillors, Rochdale Council Officers.	
<b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?</b>		It seeks an efficient and effective land use policy to support sustainable growth which ensures that new development adds to and supports increased footfall, adds to the vibrancy of the town centre and the enhancement of the Littleborough Station area and prioritises sustainable modes of travel. The area mainly comprises of commercial buildings but does also include some pockets of other land use and vacant land and buildings. Greater investor confidence in the area and provide greater certainty for the Council in securing external funding for new or improved infrastructure across the SPD area. Better quality information submitted with planning applications to assist the development control processes and the implementation of the Core Strategy policy.	
<b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b>		If funding or resources were withdrawn. Unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances. Complexity of topic.	
<b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy</b>	Rochdale Council, Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Businesses, Developers.	<b>7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?</b>	Development Management. Strategic Planning.

<b>8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?</b>	Y	N	The SPD objectives generally responds well with all racial groups in the defined area in respect of access to public open spaces, new and improved housing, community facilities,
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			accessibility etc. All groups in this area will benefit from this and help achieve a high quality development.
<b>9. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact due to gender?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
<b>10. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact due disability?</b>	Y	N	This SPD seeks better design and integration of all developments to ensure a high quality environment for all users, a suitable mix of tenures, sizes and types developed in order to meet local needs over the long term and create a sustainable community. In addition, it seeks to improve and modernise the quality of some overall residential environment. Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
<b>11. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
<b>12. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their age?</b>	Y	N	This SPD seeks better design and integration of all developments to ensure a high quality environment for all users. It seeks to offer a wider variety of residential and commercial development.  Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
<b>13. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief?</b>	Y	N	This SPD seeks appropriate levels of community facilities and services to support new development in order to serve the area as a whole. Where community facilities include places of worship.  Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
<b>14. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to them being in a marriage or civil partnership?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
<b>15. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

<b>16. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their gender reassignment?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
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<b>17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy</b>	YES	<b>NO</b>		
<b>18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason</b>	YES	<b>NO</b>		<b>Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper</b>
<b>19. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment</b>	YES	<b>NO</b>	<b>20. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA</b>	YES <b>NO</b>

Signed (completing officer) Kirsty Nicholls

Signed (Lead Officer) Mark Robinson