

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT INITIAL SCREENING

Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

July 2020

Stage 1: Initial Screening

Directorate: Economy

Service: Planning and Development

Officer completing EIA: Abigail Mills

Other officers involved in completing EIA: N/A

Date of Assessment: 01/07/2020

Name of policy to be assessed: Statement of Community Involvement

Is this a new or revised policy?

New Revised

What is the purpose of the policy?

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out an equal and positive approach on how and when the general public and stakeholders can get involved and influence new planning documents covering the Borough, and commenting on planning applications. The SCI is a statutory document and is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The Draft SCI demonstrates how the requirements of the 2004 Planning Act will be met to ensure the community has the opportunity to be involved in the planning process. This Draft SCI sets out how and when Rochdale Council will involve the community in preparing the Local Plan and in assessing planning applications. The Council will be required to follow these procedures when preparing the Local Plan and when consulting on planning applications.

Are there any other objectives?

The Council want as many stakeholders as possible to be involved in the planning process. This will make the planning process as inclusive as possible and planning related decisions will reflect the views of what the local residents, businesses and visitors want for the Borough.

Who is likely to benefit from the policy (key stakeholders)?

- Local residents within the Borough who might be affected by a land use development in their area and future occupiers of new development.
- Developers, land owners and design professionals involved in the planning process.
- National bodies, groups and organisations including statutory consultees
- Other professionals or organisations with an interest in the Borough.
- Internally, Planning Officers involved in determining applications and consulting.

Is the policy relevant to equality?

Yes No

(Answer yes if you think that the policy has equality considerations for example it has the potential to affect groups in different ways. If you have answered yes, proceed to question 1. If you answered no, move to the sign off section as no further assessment is required)

What information do you have to inform this initial assessment?

A specific needs analysis has not been undertaken. Mainly, because the SCI is a statutory document that is required by Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, because there have been changes to both planning legislation/policy and technological advances which have changed the way public consultation is carried out, the SCI has been updated to reflect these changes.

(List or attach existing data that will help in identifying the potential impact of this policy for example previous consultation; research or practical guidance or any evidence or information that you already have about how this proposal might affect equality in any of the areas covered by the protected groups)

What is the potential impact that the policy could have with regard to the protected characteristics?

(Identify whether the policy has the potential to impact in a positive or negative way or not at all. For negative impacts use the impact table to calculate a score based on the likelihood that an impact will occur and what the actual impact might be then determine whether it is a High priority (H), Medium priority (M) or Low priority (L))

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Impact Score (1-16)	Impact priority (H/M/L)	Neutral Impact
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving / ex serving members of the armed forces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Do any of your negative impact scores identify as high priority on the impact table?

Yes No

If you identify a negative impact as being **HIGH PRIORITY** you must complete a full EIA (stage 2 onwards)

4. How will you minimise/remove any negative impact that identifies as medium or low?

In light of the Government's current guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19), the Council has undertaken a review of the SCI. As a result it has been necessary to make temporary amendments to those consultation methods contained in it to allow plan making to progress in line with guidance including requirements for social distancing and to stay at home and away from others. For certain consultations, the Council would ordinarily make consultation documents available for inspection at deposit points, such as the main Council Office and at some libraries. This will not be possible during times where it is inconsistent with guidance including requirements for social distancing and to stay at home and away from other and the SCI has been updated to reflect this. These measures are only temporary and reasonable adjustments have been made by providing documents and access to meetings in a different way.

(Identify the actions that you will take to minimise or remove these negative impacts by completing an action plan as at Appendix 1)

5. Is a full EIA required?

Yes No

Lead Officer Signature:	Abigail Mills (Principal Planning Officer)	Date: 01/07/2020
Approver Signature	Mark Robinson (Assistant Director Economy)	Date: 10/07/2020

EIA Impact Action Plan

(Outline the actions that you have taken or will take to reduce or mitigate any of the potential impacts identified during your assessment)

No.	What is the impact identified?	What is the action taken or required to mitigate / reduce the impact?	What are the required outcomes?	How will outcomes be measured?	Who is responsible?	Completion date?	Review date?
1	No access to hard copies of documents and face to face meetings will impact on older people.	These measures are only temporary and reasonable adjustments have been made by providing documents and access to meetings in a different way. This includes providing information over the phone and consulting with organisations for older people.	To ensure older people are engaged in consultations and their views are captured.	Monitoring to find out who is getting involved in consultation exercises so that if certain sections of the community are not getting engaged we can target these and find out what steps could be taken to address this.	Abigail Mills	Ongoing	Ongoing
2	No access to hard copies of documents and face to face meetings will impact on disabled people.	These measures are only temporary and reasonable adjustments have been made by providing documents and access to meetings in a different way. This includes providing information over the phone and consulting with organisations of/for disabled people.	To ensure disabled people are engaged in consultations and their views are captured.	Monitoring to find out who is getting involved in consultation exercises so that if certain sections of the community are not getting engaged we can target these and find out what steps could be taken to address this.	Abigail Mills	Ongoing	Ongoing