



## **ROCHDALE COUNCIL**

### **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### **DRAFT GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

**November 2014**

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

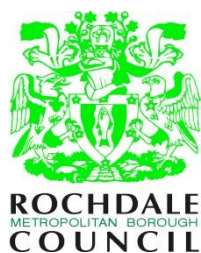
This document is an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft Guidelines & Standards for Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which has been prepared by the Council. The attached Pro-forma sets out how equality impacts have been assessed.

### **Context**

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA) requires the council to carry out race equality impact assessments on new and proposed policies. The council's race equality scheme, as adopted 21 March 2005 lays down the council's commitment to undertake race equality impact assessments.

The Equality Standard for Local Government also requires equalities impact assessments to be evidenced in order to achieve progress against the levels contained in the Standard. The council has committed itself to implementation of the Standard across nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex (gender); and sexual orientation. In addition to these, the Council also includes the following two categories: carer and Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces personnel. This means that the council will ultimately be required to undertake equalities impact assessments that address all of these equalities areas.

## Equality Impact Assessment



**What are you assessing? Please tick the appropriate box below.**

Function	Strategy	Policy	Project	Other, please specify below
		X		

<b>Service:</b>  <b>Economy and Environment</b>	<b>Section:</b>  <b>Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>  Wayne Poole	<b>Name of function/strategy/ policy/ project assessed:</b>  Draft Guidelines and Standards for Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
<b>Date of Assessment:</b>  24 <sup>th</sup> September 2014  <b>Officers Involved:</b>  <b>Wayne Poole</b>  <b>Sohida Banu</b>	
<b>1.What is the purpose of the function/strategy/policy/project assessed?</b>  <i>(Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the function/strategy/policy/project)</i>	
<p>The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to assist in the process of ensuring high quality residential development throughout the Borough, and to supplement the development management policies contained within the adopted Unitary Development Plan and emerging Core Strategy.</p> <p>The guidance is intended to aid all those involved in the development process: applicants and their agents, neighbouring residents, architects, development management officers and councillors.</p> <p>The guidance is also intended to assist in promoting good practice and consistency of decision making by ensuring that certain stands are clearly defined.</p>	

<b>2. Who are the key stakeholders?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general public</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Landowners</li> </ul>
<b>3. What is the scope of this equality impact assessment? That is, what is included in this assessment.</b>
<p>This assessment covers the general impact of the guidance contained within the SPD's. It is important to note that SPD's are intended to supplement, clarify and explain the interpretation of existing policy as opposed to making new policy.</p>
<b>4. Which needs is this function/strategy/ policy/ project designed to meet?</b>
<p>As noted above the SPD is intended to provide clarity and consistency in terms of both process and planning decision-making. This will benefit all those either are seeking to develop new housing or simply wish to extend and improve their own home.</p> <p>The implementation of standards relating to residential development will help to ensure good quality development as well as improving residential amenity for new and existing residents.</p>
<b>5. Has a needs analysis been undertaken?</b>
<p>A specific needs analysis has not been undertaken. However, the existing guidelines on residential development are out of date and therefore this SPD is required to provide clear advice and guidance on residential development ensuring that appropriate standards are met.</p>
<b>6. Who is affected by this function/strategy/ policy/ project?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general public</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Landowners</li> </ul>
<b>7. Who has been involved in the review or development of this function/strategy/ policy/ project and who has been consulted? State your consultation/involvement methodology.</b>
<p>SPD's are governed by specific regulations in terms of consultation. Prior to the approval of any final document a Consultation Statement must be produced setting out who was consulted, the comments received and how they have been addressed within the final document. This consultation will include general consultees as well as key stakeholders such as agents and developers. In terms of developing the draft document this has taken account of national guidance and internal discussions between officers.</p>
<b>8. What data have you considered for this assessment and have any gaps in the data been identified. What action will be taken to close any data gaps?</b>
<p>For this assessment consideration has been given to the information within the 'Equality Profile of Rochdale Borough'. This document contains general information relating to all the groups covered through the assessment</p> <p>Over a third of applications received relate to residential development in the form of either new homes or</p>

extensions/adaptations to existing properties. This scale of applications will cover a wide range of groups and members of the community. The advice within the SPD deals with issues relating to residential development on a consistent and fair basis.

No gaps have been identified at this stage. Any identified through the consultation will be considered appropriately.

**9.Are there any other documents or strategies which are linked to this assessment? If so, please include hyperlinks to these documents below, where available.**

None specifically

**10.What impact will this function/strategy/policy/project have on all the protected groups? This includes both positive and potentially negative impacts.**

**Race Equality**

It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon any particular racial group.

Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Disabled People**

It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Carers**

It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Gender**

It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Age**

It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.

<b>Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>Religion or Belief</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon any particular religious or belief group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b>
<p>It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.</p> <p>Generally this SPD will protect and promote residential amenity and therefore should maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents.</p>
<b>11.What are your main conclusions from this analysis?</b>
<p>Generally the overall impacts are positive in ensuring that residential amenity is maintained and this has potential benefits for all members of the community.</p>
<b>12.What are your recommendations?</b>

No further recommendations at this stage.
<b>13.What actions are you going to take to address the findings of this assessment? Please attach an action plan including details of designated officers responsible for completing these actions.</b>
No actions required at this stage.

Signed (Completing Officer): *W.Pooler*

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Signed (Head of Service): *M. Robinson*

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

