

# **ROCHDALE CORE STRATEGY**

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Local Development Framework**  
**November 2010**  
Publication Draft (Pre Submission Stage)





## **Equalities Impact Assessment of the publication (Pre-submission stage) Core Strategy**

### **Introduction**

As part of our work on the Core Strategy, the Council has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the Core Strategy Pre-Submission.

#### **1. What is an Equality Impact Assessment?**

The Council has a statutory duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the Gender Duty set out in the Equality Act 2006 to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment. This is to ensure that policies, services and procedures do not have an adverse impact on a particular group of people due to their:

- Gender;
- Sexuality;
- Religion or belief;
- Race;
- Age; and
- Disability.

The idea is to identify any unintended impacts that may have a detrimental effect on individuals and communities. In addition, the Equalities Impact Assessment considers if there will be any potential positive impacts of the policy and ways in which the policy will actively promote equality or good community relations.

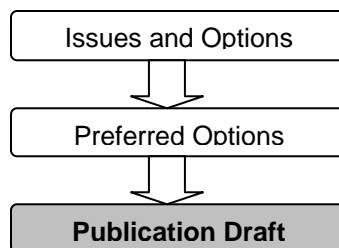
Guidance on undertaking Equality Impact Assessments<sup>1</sup> requires the Council to examine their policies and procedures with the aim of preventing discriminatory outcomes or unmet needs.

#### **2. Background to the Core Strategy**

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new form of development plan and will replace the Unitary Development Plan. It will provide a spatial planning framework and will seek to provide guidance for Rochdale borough for the next 15 years and will set out strategies and policies for the development and use of land as well as broader spatial matters. It will consist of a number of separate documents setting out different types of planning guidance.

The Core Strategy is the key policy document in Rochdale's LDF setting out the spatial strategy for the borough and the key elements of the planning framework. The Core Strategy will be supported by other Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which will provide more guidance on specific details. All other policy documents have to be in line with Rochdale's Core Strategy.

Since preparation began in 2006 there have been three stages of consultation on the Core Strategy as illustrated below.



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<sup>1</sup> Equality Framework for Local Government, I&DeA, March 2009

### **3. The Publication Draft Core Strategy – aims of the policy**

It sets out a long term vision for Rochdale setting out broad scale of development proposed up to 2026 and where that development will be focussed. It also sets out the key regeneration and conservation priorities and identifies what infrastructure is needed to support development. The Core Strategy aims to make the different settlements within Rochdale attractive places within which to live, work and visit. The Core Strategy provides an overall framework for the more detailed policies and site specific proposals contained in other parts of the LDF.

The Core Strategy contains the following:

- An overall vision which sets out how Rochdale should evolve over the next 15 years;
- A set of strategic objectives which expand the vision and focus on the key issues to be addressed;
- A delivery strategy for achieving these objectives which sets out how much development is intended to happen, where, when and how;
- Strategic policies for delivering the development; and
- An implementation and monitoring framework.

### **4. Stage 1 Initial Screening (Pro Forma for the Initial Assessment)**

The initial assessment of the policies in the Publication Draft Core Strategy is the screening of the main issues and checks whether they could have positive or negative impacts on people within the different diversity strands.

The Council's corporate Equality Impact Assessment template has been used to complete the stage 1 initial screening. As there are 34 individual policies within the Core Strategy, to ensure that a comprehensive approach has been taken, all policies have been assessed individually in the initial screening exercise. The results of the initial policy screening can be found in the table below.

The Core Strategy has been produced in phases and the initial screening was undertaken on the Preferred Options Core Strategy (October 2009), this can be viewed at [www.rochdale.gov.uk/yourviews](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/yourviews). None of the policies were considered to have any great unequal outcome and a full equalities impact assessment was not considered necessary.

We are consulting publicly on this Equalities Impact Assessment alongside the Publication Draft so that we can take account of any issues before we move forward to the final, formal stage of developing the Core Strategy, known as Publication stage.

### **5. What are the desired outcomes from our Core Strategy policies?**

- To ensure the Core Strategy policies reflect the communities' key needs and priorities as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and other strategies.
- To achieve a robust, clear and concise set of spatial planning policies so that residents and businesses are clear about the broad scale and location of development proposed for the borough.
- To set clear policies and criterion for assessing planning applications. They should identify how impact on adjoining uses, residents and the environment should be assessed and mitigated.
- To ensure that national and sub regional objectives are achieved appropriately on the local level.

## **6. Conclusion**

The policies of the Core Strategy have been tested for their impacts on equality. The Equality Impact Assessment demonstrates that no policies have negative impacts on equality and many of the policies contribute towards promoting equality. None of the policies were considered to have any significant adverse impact on equality and a full equalities impact assessment was therefore not considered necessary.

## **7. Next steps**

- We will consider the outcome of this stage and look at the comments made in our Publication Draft and in this Equalities Impact Assessment and make the relevant and necessary changes to the Core Strategy; and
- We will then prepare our final Core Strategy along with an updated Equalities Impact Assessment consult on it further and make some minor changes before it is submitted to government.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

**Pro Forma for the Initial Assessment**

**Name of the Document to be assessed:**

Publication Draft Core Strategy

**Service:**

Planning and Regulation Service

**Completed by:**

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**Date Completed:**

10 September 2010

**Signed off by:**

**Name:**

Paul Simpson

**Position:**

Strategic Planning Manager

**Date signed off:  
(approved)**

13 October 2010

**Date on which the document and EIA is to be reviewed**

April 2011

**Explanation of symbols**

- + Potentially a positive impact
- / No direct impact
- = Will need more work in the detail to ensure that negative impacts are avoided and that, potentially this could be a positive impact with careful attention to detail which will come later on in the process.
- Potential negative impact which will need measures to ensure this is mitigated.

## Initial Assessment – Publication Draft (Pre-Submission Stage)

Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Potential impact						Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
<b>Vision and Spatial Approach</b>											
	Spatial Vision	/	/	/	/	/	/	This is a broad strategic vision and therefore does not focus on a particular group. All the elements will however have a positive impact on the population as a whole and will not disadvantage any particular group.	Positive.	N/A	
<b>Strategic Objectives</b>											
SO1	To deliver a more prosperous economy	/	/	/	/	/	/	This objective potentially benefits all groups in that it seeks to improve the range, quality and accessibility of jobs.	Neutral		
SO2	To create successful and healthy communities	+	/	+	+	+	/	This objective is based on improving community facilities and infrastructure to support residents, including all groups. It is therefore positive.	Positive	N/A	
SO3	To improve design, image and quality of place	+	/	+	/	/	/	Better design can benefit all groups but the commitment to safety and security will be of particular benefit to some.	Positive	N/A	
SO4	To promote a greener environment	/	/	/	/	/	/	The objective does not require a focus on any particular group.	Neutral	N/A	
SO5	To improve accessibility and deliver sustainable transport	+	/	+	/	/	/	This objective will benefit disadvantaged groups, in particular the young, the elderly and those areas with a high BME population and those with impaired mobility i.e. those without easy access to a car.	Positive.		
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>											
SP1	Rochdale borough's role in the city region	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy deals with accessibility to jobs and facilities within the city region and choice of housing etc. It does not therefore focus on particular groups.	Neutral	N/A	
SP2	The Spatial Strategy for the borough	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy identifies the scale and location of development within the borough and is positive overall. The focus of development in the south of the	Positive	N/A	

		Potential impact									
Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality	Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
								borough takes account of accessibility, economic growth and areas in need of regeneration. The strengthening of centres and improvements to the urban environment and green infrastructure are all positive aspects for all groups. There is less of a focus on development in the north and deprivation and social issues are less significant than in the south. However, appropriate development is still sought to assist disadvantaged groups.			
SP3/H SP3/M SP3/P SP3/R	The Spatial Strategy for the townships	+	+	+	+	+	/	The focus on improving the townships and taking account of their character, strengths and opportunities will be a benefit to all groups.	Positive	N/A	
<b>Achieving a more Prosperous Economy</b>											
E1	Establishing thriving town and local centres	+	+	+	+	+	+	The purpose of this policy is to protect and maintain shopping in existing locations across the borough and to improve the existing retail and shopping offer in all the centres. This will encourage more people to shop in the borough by clawing back retail expenditure and compete with other town centres. By protecting existing centres from economic harm and improving the shopping and leisure offer of the centres then it will not discriminate against particular persons/groups.	Positive. With more people staying in the borough to shop, fewer people will have to travel out of town to access shops and facilities. By improving the retail and leisure offer; shoppers, visitors and residents have a better choice and quality.	N/A	



Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Potential impact						Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
E2	Supporting jobs and prosperity	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy seeks to ensure a good supply of land and premises to support sufficient job creation in the borough to reduce unemployment, and increase employment levels and prosperity. This can benefit all groups. Any inequality in access to jobs is most likely to be due to approaches to recruitment which the strategy has little impact on. (see DM2 below)	Positive	N/A	
E3	Focusing on economic growth corridors	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy focuses employment development in four economic growth corridors in the south of the borough. These are in accessible locations for residents across the borough, but are very accessible from most of the areas of high social deprivation, where there may be a higher representation of some groups.	Positive	N/A	
E4	Encouraging the visitor economy	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy seeks to promote visitor attractions and the visitor economy; sustainable tourism will benefit the whole community but will not directly benefit a specific group.	Neutral	N/A	
E5	Diversifying the rural economy	/	/	/	/	/	/	The direct benefits of diversification of the rural economy will impact on only a small part of the borough's population. There are, however, unlikely to be any direct negative impact for any groups.	Neutral	N/A	
<b>Creating Successful and Healthy Communities</b>											
C1	Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	+	+	+	+	+	+	Seeking to deliver a choice of housing across the borough is positive for all groups.	Positive	N/A	
C2	Focusing on regeneration areas and economic growth corridors	+	+	+	+	+	+	Regeneration of areas to improve housing, increase job opportunities, enhance community facilities and provide quality open space will assist all these groups within the more deprived areas of the borough.	Delivering regeneration and having new homes close to a	N/A	

		Potential impact									
Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality	Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
								Delivering new housing close to new jobs in economic growth corridors gives everybody better access to employment opportunities	wider range of job opportunities will have a positive impact on the quality of life of all groups.		
C3	Delivering the right type of housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	Seeking to deliver a choice of housing across the borough is positive for all groups. This will include affordable housing, elderly housing and large family housing.	Positive	N/A	
C4	Providing affordable homes	+	+	+	+	+	+	The aim of the policy is to make more housing affordable. This would benefit people in all groups who are struggling to access market housing.	Positive	N/A	
C5	Meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers	+	+	+	+	+	+	Whilst this policy does aim at meeting the needs of a specific group it does not negatively impact on meeting the housing needs of other groups	Provides a positive impact for the gypsy and travelling community. Unlikely to have a negative impact in terms of meeting the needs of other groups.	N/A	
C6	Improving health and well being	+	+	+	+	+	+	The aim of this policy supports the proposal for all people to live more active lives through the provision of sports facilities, walking and cycling routes, improvements to transport routes, open space, climate change, ensuring new facilities are in accessible locations, better designed buildings etc.	Positive	N/A	

		Potential impact									
Pre-Submission Policy	Description							Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
								This policy has no specific target group at this strategic stage in terms of equality as the opportunity to keep healthy is relevant to all groups and therefore everyone benefits.			
C7	Delivering education facilities	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>The provision of new and improved educational facilities will provide the opportunity for more people to acquire new skills. It will lead to more people gaining better qualification and give them more opportunities to pursue further education and/or be better equipped for employment. It will provide opportunities for social interaction and community cohesion. Therefore all groups benefit from this policy.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that where certain school closures are concerned, some groups may be at a disadvantage in terms of sending their children to a school of their first choice and may be required to travel further to access a school. However, the development of new schools will be in accessible locations along transport corridors.</p>	Generally positive but the closure of some schools will lead to longer travel times to access another school. However, these will be provided along accessible locations and transport corridors.	N/A	
C8	Improving community, sport and leisure and cultural facilities	+	+	+	+	+	+	This supports the provision and retention of a variety of local facilities in accessible locations and areas of greatest need. So that people do not have to travel to access the things they need in everyday life. This policy caters for all groups in the community so everyone benefits.	Positive	N/A	
<b>Improving Design, Image and Quality of Place</b>											
P1	Protecting and enhancing the borough's character and heritage	+	+	=	+	+	+	The protection and enhancement of the character of the area will benefit all residents because it will improve the quality of the environment in which	Generally positive	N/A	

		Potential impact									
Pre-Submission Policy	Description							Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
								people live and make the borough more attractive for investment. However, the protection of heritage can present challenges in terms of adapting older buildings for disabled people.			
P2	Improving the borough's Image	+	+	+	+	+	+	Improving the borough's image will help all people in the borough by improving quality of life and encouraging investment into the borough.	Positive	N/A	
P3	Improving design of new development	+	+	+	+	+	+	This design policy establishes a number of design principles which promote inclusiveness and accessibility, safety and security. This policy will ensure benefits for all.	Positive	N/A	
<b>Promoting a greener environment</b>											
G1	Tackling and adapting to climate change	+	+	+	+	+	+	Tackling climate change will benefit all people in the borough through reducing the negative impacts of climate change which could impact on health and quality of life.	Positive	N/A	
G2	Energy and new development	+	+	+	+	+	+	This will improve the environment for all groups and has particular role to play in reducing energy bills and tackling fuel poverty. It will also help to tackle climate change.	Positive	N/A	
G3	Renewable and low carbon energy development	+	+	+	+	+	+	This will improve the environment for all groups and will also help to tackle climate change.	Positive	N/A	
G4	Managing Green Belt	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy has no implications for any specific group of people. However, the role of the greenbelt in promoting urban regeneration will benefit people overall as it will direct development to areas in need of regeneration and areas of demand.	Neutral	N/A	
G5	Managing protected open land	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy has no implications for any specific group of people.	Neutral	N/A	

Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Potential impact						Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqlA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
G6	Enhancing green infrastructure	+	+	+	+	+	+	The provision of new, enhanced and quality green infrastructure will bring benefits to all groups in the community through the provision of accessible open spaces and river valleys for recreation, sport, biodiversity etc; improved access to the countryside, and adaptation to climate change and environmental risk, especially flooding.	Positive. Access enhancements will provide more and better quality green space and increase opportunities for a healthier lifestyle.	N/A	
G7	Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy will enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and increase access to these assets as a recreation and education resource. Biodiversity will be included within development, bringing potential ecological benefits and increase opportunities for the understanding, observation and accessing of the natural world.	Positive. Access to biodiversity etc can be part of healthier lifestyles, reducing stress and are part of the education and recreational resource of the borough.	N/A	
G8	Managing water resources and flood risk	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy will benefit all people in the borough, especially in terms of health and quality of life and reducing risks to property from flooding.	Positive	N/A	
G9	Reducing the impact of pollution	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy will benefit all people in the borough, especially in terms of health and quality of life.	Positive	N/A	
G10	Managing mineral resources	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy seeks to manage mineral resources sustainably and to ensure their protection has no significant impact on any one group.	Neutral	N/A	
G11	Managing waste	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy sets out how we manage all waste	Neutral	N/A	

		Potential impact									
Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality	Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
<b>Improving Accessibility and Delivering Sustainable Transport</b>											
T1	Delivering sustainable transport	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy predominantly presents the measures and initiatives that will enhance the transport network mainly promoting sustainable travel and widening travel choice for all users. Specific highway improvements enable, or are supported by, measures also promoting non-car travel. With regard to age, gender and disability, the enhancement of public transport services will provide access to more destinations and provide a safer travel experience.	Positive. All the proposals aim to improve access to employment, residential training, education, shopping and leisure opportunities.	N/A	
T2	Improving accessibility	+	+	+	+	+	+	This policy sets out appropriate locations of new development, accessibility standards and the accessibility hierarchy, more robust guidance for developers that deliver new transport infrastructure, Transport Assessments, travel plans and standards that the Council can more easily enforce. Developers will be expected to invest in infrastructure to mitigate impact. These offer particular benefit for young people and those with impaired mobility.	Positive.	N/A	
<b>Managing delivery and monitoring progress</b>											
DM1	General development requirements	/	/	/	/	/	/	This policy sets out all the factors that should be taken into account in determining planning applications, primarily referring to all the policies assessed above. It is therefore the sum of all the above policies.	Neutral	N/A	

Pre-Submission Policy	Description	Potential impact						Comments	Overall +ve / -ve impact	Can it be mitigated?	Does it need a full EqIA?
		Age	Gender	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexuality				
DM2	Delivering planning contributions and infrastructure	/	/	/	/	/	/	This seeks planning contributions to mitigate the possible impact of a development and / or to provide infrastructure to support a development.	Neutral	N/A	

