ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DRAFT SHOPFRONTS AND SECURITY SHUTTERS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

March 2012

ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

This document is an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft Shopfronts and Security ShuttersSupplementary Planning Document (SPD) prepared by Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council. The attached pro-forma describes 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, adopted 21st March 2005 sets out 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 is committed to implementation of the Standard across 5 areas of equality: gender, religion, disability, race, age and sexuality. This means that the council will undertake Equalities Impact Assessments that address all of these areas.

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Proforma

Department	Strategic Planning	**Section** Planning and Regulation	**Person responsible for the assessment**	Richard Chapman	
Name of the Policy to be assessed	Shopfronts and Security Shutters SPD	**Date of Assessment**	21st March 2012	**Is this a new or existing policy**	Elaborates on an existing UDP Policy
1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy	The purpose of this supplementary planning document (SPD) is to expand The Unitary Development Plan policy in respect of shopfront design, revising the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance and adding specific guidance in respect of security measures such as shutters and grilles. This policy is likely to be brought forward into the Local Development Framework (LDF). The SPD sets out the : ▪ Good practice guidance for shopfront design, ▪ Good practice guidance and options in respect of security measures, ▪ The Council's approach to such security measures when it comes to determining planning applications, both generally and in Conservation Areas. The SPD aims to: ● Improve the appearance of retail areas of the Borough whilst allowing businesses to ensure that they are sufficiently secure. The consultation draft seeks to engage developers, agents, Councillors, businesses and planners to ensure that their views are heard and considered before the document is finalised.				
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain	Aiding the local economy. Approving the appearance of Conservation Areas and the settings of Listed Buildings.				

3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way	Businesses and the general public of the borough, as well as visitors. Clear and substantive information will be submitted with planning applications assisting the development control process and implementation of UDP/LDF policy.
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?	Ensure that shopfronts and security measures are not detrimental to the appearance of the borough whilst at the same time ensuring that businesses are allowed to implement suitable security measures.

5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?		Lack of sufficient compliance and enforcement.	
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy	Businesses and the general public, as well as the Greater Manchester Police	7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?	Development Management, Planning Committees
7. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on racial groups.		Y | **N**	The Plan does not have any differential impact upon this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to all areas of the borough and businesses run by all racial groups.			

9. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact due to gender	Y | **N**	The SPD has no differential impact upon this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by both sexes.		
10. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact due disability	Y | **N**	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? This SPD is complementary to the regulations and guidance in respect of access to shops, which is dealt with by Building Control.		
11. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation	Y | **N**	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.		
12. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to their age	Y | **N**	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.		
13. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief	Y | **N**	

What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.		
14. Are there concerns that the policy *could* have a differential impact on people due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities	Y | **N**	

What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.				
15. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to their offending past		Y	**N**	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.				
16. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due to them being transgender or transsexual		Y	**N**	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Shopfront and shutter design images are common to businesses run by all people.				
17. Are there concerns that the policy _could_ have a differential impact on people due issues surrounding poverty		**Y**	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The SPD ensures that it does not put additional financial strain on businesses, and it is flexible in its approach, outlining various solutions for the issues. It suggests ways of improving security, which could have cost savings, and there is likely to be an overall positive economic impact.				

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18. Could the differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy	YES	**NO**		
19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason	YES	NO		
20. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment	YES	**NO**	**21. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA**	YES	NO
22.				

Signed : Andrew Eadie (Principal Planning Officer, Sustainability and Design)   Signed (Lead Officer) : Paul Simpson (Strategic Planning Manager)