

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit

(April 2014)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Robert Oates

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Head of Section: David Ball

Chief Officer: Kevin Adderley

Directorate: Regeneration and Environment

Date: Revised 11/6/2015

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Development Plan

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Policy & Performance Committee?

Yes

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

No but revised assessment is related to a Delegated Decision by the Cabinet Member for the Economy published on 25 November 2014

Please select hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

Regeneration & Environment (Environment & Regulation, Housing & Community Safety, Regeneration) <http://www.bit.ly/regenEIA>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state e.g.: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

Devonshire Park Residents Association
Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All groups	The proposed Plan states that all members of the community are valued and represented with particular concern for the protection of vulnerable members of the community benefiting from supported living in the area (paragraph 1.12). It is considered that this approach should have a potentially positive impact on all groups of people.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	The Appendix to the proposed Plan states that the objectives of the Residents Association are to create and maintain a stable and supportive community (Objective 1) and to engender a meaningful community spirit (Objective 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
	<p>by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing points of contact and support for the vulnerable, isolated and lonely; • Preventing crime and providing support for those in fear of crime and anti social behaviour; • Fostering through community activity, a sense of involvement for the disengaged and disaffected – in particular, young residents; • Producing information on matters relevant to the community on a regular and accessible basis; • Actively fostering pride in the cleanliness, maintenance and appearance of all of the public and private areas of the Estate and in standards of behaviour in and around the area; and • Co-ordinating, harnessing and maximising the capacity of people in the community to improve the lives of fellow residents. <p>It is considered that these objectives are likely to have a strongly positive effect on all groups of people.</p>				

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All groups	<p>The Appendix to the proposed Plan states that the other objectives of the Residents' Association are to maintain the diverse nature of the community (Objective 4), to contribute to the wellbeing of Wirral as a whole by establishing modes of local cooperation (Objective 5) and to give first priority to the interests of residents with a long term investment in the community but also to give transient and temporary residents a stake in the maintenance of standards of good neighbourliness, care for properties and respect for the environment in general (Objective 2). It is considered that this approach is likely to have a potentially positive impact on all groups of people.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	<p>The Appendix to the proposed Plan also states that the Residents Association has formed a strong partnership with the local police team and that every effort has been made to assist with the needs of vulnerable members of the community. It is considered that forming links with the local police and community support officers would have a positive impact on all groups of people.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All groups	Aim 1 (paragraph 6.5) of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan is to build a thriving, sustainable, resident community to invest in the long term future of Devonshire Park, which is likely to have a potentially positive impact on all groups of people.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Aim 3 (paragraph 6.5) of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan, to provide a safe, secure, neighbourly environment for residents and visitors, is also likely to have a potentially positive impact on all groups of people.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
People who may need smaller rather than family sized accommodation	Aim 2 (paragraph 6.5) of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan is to maintain the remaining stock of larger family sized housing and encourage the development of new family sized housing where redevelopment opportunities arise, which could limit the future provision of other types of smaller flatted or shared accommodation.	No action is required, as both Policy 2 and Policy 3 of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan already set out an appropriate mitigating circumstance, by allowing relevant alternative types of development where a clear local need can be demonstrated.			

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
<p>People on lower incomes or needing to live in residential institutions, supported housing or hostels</p>	<p>Paragraphs 6.6, 7.11 and 7.21 of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan state that the community holds that preservation or enhancement of the current stock of family housing is essential to a sustainable future for Devonshire Park; to encourage families into the area and promote a sustainable and balanced community.</p> <p>While attempting to re-balance the number of family houses against the disproportionately high number of flats and converted or shared houses within the area could possibly have a negative impact on residents in need of this type of accommodation, which may include residents with a lower socio-economic status, this has been balanced against the likely positive impact of achieving a more balanced housing offer and ensuring the character of the area is maintained.</p>	<p>No action is required, as both Policy 2 and Policy 3 of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan already set out an appropriate mitigating circumstance, by allowing relevant new development where a clear local need can be demonstrated.</p> <p>Planning legislation also allows a dwelling house to be occupied by up to six un-related people living together as a single household, where basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom are shared and for a dwelling house to be occupied by up to six people living together as a single household and receiving care (supported housing schemes), without the need to apply for planning permission, under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
People who may need smaller flatted or shared accommodation	Part A of Devonshire Park Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses, which could potentially limit the future provision of other types of flatted or shared accommodation.	No action is required, as both Policy 2 and Policy 3 of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan already set out an appropriate mitigating circumstance, by allowing relevant alternative types of development where a clear local need can be demonstrated.			
All groups	Part B of Devonshire Park Policy 1 is focused on design and it is considered that restoring and preserving the character of the Villa Estate will have a positive impact on all groups.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
People on lower incomes or needing to live in flatted or shared accommodation or residential institutions, supported housing or hostels	<p>Devonshire Park Policy 2 seeks to control the provision of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses and Devonshire Park Policy 3 seeks to control the provision of additional residential institutions or hostels.</p> <p>While controlling the additional provision of this type of housing could possibly have a negative impact on residents in need of this type of accommodation, which may include residents with a lower socio-</p>	<p>No action is required, as both Policy 2 and Policy 3 of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan already set out an appropriate mitigating circumstance, by allowing relevant new development where a clear local need can be demonstrated.</p> <p>Planning legislation also allows a dwelling house to be occupied by up to six un-related people living together as a single household, where basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom are</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
	economic status, this has been balanced against the likely positive impact of achieving a more balanced housing offer and ensuring the character of the area is maintained.	shared and for a dwelling house to be occupied by up to six people living together as a single household and receiving care (supported housing schemes), without the need to apply for planning permission, under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).			
All groups	Criterion (4) in Devonshire Park Policy 2 and Criterion (4) in Devonshire Park Policy 3 seek to ensure that any new development proposed would not harm the living conditions for occupants of neighbouring properties, which will have a positive impact on all groups.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 5: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan has been published for public consultation and was submitted to a formal examination by a suitably qualified independent person, who reported in May 2015. Once the Plan has been made part of the statutory Development Plan, following a successful local referendum, its policies will be monitored as part of the Council's statutory Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), which will incorporate measures to record the number of times the policies have been used and the impact of their application.

Section 5a: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The aims, objectives and provisions to be contained within the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park have been assessed under Section 4 of this EIA and have been submitted to a formal statutory examination by a suitably qualified independent person. The aims and objectives focus around the positive involvement of all members of the community for the wider benefit of the area. While some of the proposals would seek to control the additional provision of flats, maisonettes or apartments, converted or shared houses and residential institutions and hostels that require planning permission, there is already a higher than average concentration of these types of property within the area and appropriate measures have already been included to ensure that any clearly evidenced local needs will still be provided for.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Data contained within the documents submitted to the Council by the Neighbourhood Planning Forum, attached to the Delegated Decision Report, the results of statutory post-submission consultation and the report and findings of the Independent Examiner dated May 2015 and Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) – Guidelines (April 2014).

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal? Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum has prepared the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of a statutory process, following public consultation undertaken in August 2011, February 2012 and May 2013. The draft proposals were submitted to the Council and re-published for six weeks and made subject to a statutory independent examination, which recommended that the Plan as now modified be submitted to a referendum of local electors within the Plan Area. The final Plan can only be made following a majority vote of local electors in a local referendum and a resolution of Full Council.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting its legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**