

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (April 2014)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Robert Oates, Senior Planning Officer, Forward Planning

Email address: robertoates@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager

Chief Officer: David Ball, Assistant Director, Environmental Services

Directorate: Delivery

Date: 31 March 2017

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Proposed designation of the Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Alliance as the statutory neighbourhood planning forum for the Neighbourhood Area of Birkenhead North, following public consultation.

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

No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Delegated Decision by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution – March 2017

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

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

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

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

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 object of the Forum, to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Birkenhead North area, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2 refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Engaging with the LPA and any other statutory agency, business or civil society organisation, in order to collaborate for mutual benefit, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(a) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Participating in neighbourhood initiatives, including neighbourhood management, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(b) refers).	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	Preparing statutory neighbourhood planning proposals, including a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the designated neighbourhood area, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(c) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Fostering the goodwill and involvement of the whole community through equal treatment of all, regardless of age, belief, ethnicity, gender, impairment, sexual orientation or any other difference, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(d) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Fostering community spirit, unity, encouraging civic pride and listening to members of the community would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(e) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Planning for the provision of decent and adaptable residential, commercial and community buildings and spaces that meet the needs of people who live or work in the area would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(f) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Working towards a more sustainable, prosperous and secure future for the area and its people would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 2(g) refers).	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	Providing open membership for all who live in, work in, or are elected to represent the area would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 4 refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Pursuing the objective to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Birkenhead and Tranmere area, would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 5(a) refers)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Promoting sustainable development, environmental improvement, education and practical collaboration would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 5(b) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Ensuring that voting on statutory neighbourhood planning proposals complies with any legal requirements under the Town and Country Planning Acts would have a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, clause 8(c) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Ensuring that any decision to undertake, consult upon or submit to the LPA for approval any statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan is subject to a vote would have a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution, clause 10(a) refers).	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	Ensuring that all neighbourhood planning consultations shall be open to anyone who lives or works in the area, or who has an interest in the area, whether members of the Forum or not, would have a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution, clause 10(b) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Groups	Publicising the neighbourhood planning process, to seek to involve everyone who lives, works or carries on business in the area and make an accurate record of the outcome of all consultations, would have a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution, clause 10(c) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Groups	Working collaboratively on the preparation of any neighbourhood planning proposals with the LPA, independent experts or advisors and any other interested party would have a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution, clause 10(d) refers).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All groups	Statutory provisions requiring open membership, statutory consultation on any emerging neighbourhood planning proposals, publication and independent examination of the final proposals and a vote of local Electors in a local referendum, as set out in the body of the accompanying Delegated Report, would also have a potential positive impact on all groups.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

Membership of the Forum and the preparation of neighbourhood planning proposals will be monitored by the Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Alliance under the provisions of their proposed Constitution.

The Council will also have a role in ensuring that any statutory requirements have been complied with before any neighbourhood planning proposals are submitted to statutory public examination and local referendum.

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

The proposed Constitution for the proposed Neighbourhood Forum contains the objectives which have been assessed under Section 4 of this EIA. The objectives focus on positive involvement of all members of the community and it is therefore considered that no negative impacts are likely to result from the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum, if confirmed by the Portfolio Holder.

This assessment will need to be reviewed within a subsequent EIA, to be prepared when the final content of the emerging neighbourhood planning proposals are available.

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

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) – Guidelines (April 2014).

Documents provided as part of a formal application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum for Birkenhead North (as attached to the accompanying Delegated Report), to meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 637) (as amended). Results of statutory consultation undertaken between 08 February and 22 March 2017.

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

No – Already undertaken (see below).

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?

There is a statutory requirement for the Council to publish valid applications from local community groups that wish to have more control over planning and development within their local area by seeking designation as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

Consultation must take place over a period of not less than 6 weeks, to bring the application for designation to the attention of those who live, work or carry on business in the area, before the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum and associated Neighbourhood Area can be confirmed.

Statutory consultation took place between 08 February and 22 March 2017 to bring the application for designation to the attention of those who live, work or carry on business in the area to be affected.

The application documents were placed for public inspection on the Council's website, at St James Library and the South Annexe of Wallasey Town Hall.

A summary of the other arrangements are set out in section 8.0 of the accompanying Delegated Report.

No comments were submitted that would indicate that the designation of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum and proposed Neighbourhood Area should not take place, as applied for.

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 5. 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 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**