

South Bucks Local Development Framework

Proposed Submission Core Strategy

Equalities Impact Assessment

July 2010



South Bucks
District Council

Equalities Impact Assessment South Bucks District Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy June 2010

Introduction

This report sets out the results of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the South Bucks Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD). The purpose of the EqIA is to highlight the likely impact of the Core Strategy policies on different community groups, and how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in relation to the development of the policies.

The need for an EqIA to be undertaken stems from the duty placed on public authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination in carrying out its functions, and promote equality of opportunity between men and women, different racial groups, and other equality groups.

Public authorities are specifically required to undertake an EqIA under:

- Race Relations Amendment Act 2000.
- The Disability Act 2006.
- The Sex and Discrimination Act 2007.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a legal requirement, and is used to examine existing or proposed policies, strategies, functions, projects or activities, to identify the likely effects its implementation may have on residents and service users.

The assessment can anticipate and recommend ways to avoid any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group, on the grounds of race, ethnic origins, gender, disability, faith sexuality, age or deprivation. It will help ensure that policies or services etc. fulfil the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.

The assessment also provides the opportunity to demonstrate the potential benefits for equality target groups arising from a proposed policy or target.

This EqIA is undertaking a Screening Assessment of the South Bucks Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document, March 2010.

The LDF and Core Strategy

The LDF is a suite of separate but linked documents which will plan, monitor and manage future change in South Bucks until 2026. The most important of these documents is the Core Strategy. This sets the scale, form and broad location of future development in the District, and sets the overarching policy framework for other Development Plan Documents.

The Core Strategy has been subject to community engagement over several years. In March 2010, the Council published its Proposed Submission Core Strategy for a six week period for formal representations to be made.


The Core Strategy DPD will be formally submitted to Government in July 2010 and the 'soundness' of the document will be considered by a Government appointed independent Inspector at Examination hearings later in the year. This EqIA will be submitted alongside the Core Strategy DPD.

Methodology

South Bucks District Council's EqIA guidance (2009) has been used to assess the equality impacts of the Council's Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

The Council has undertaken an initial screening to assess the policies within the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. Each policy was subject to rigorous analysis of its likely impact on race, ethnic origins, gender, disability, faith, sexuality, age or deprivation.

The full screening table is attached in Appendix 1. The following symbols are used in the table to determine policy impacts.

Symbol	Likely Impact
	Positive
	Neutral
	Negative

Summary

The screening assessment concluded that there were no negative impacts on race, ethnic origins, gender, disability, faith sexuality, age or deprivation. Many policies would be expected to have a positive impact on some groups, particularly deprived groups and older people.

Outcome from the Screening Process

Document/Policy Title	Proposed Submission Core Strategy		
Author or Lead Officer	Joanna Faul	Date	June 2010
1.	Does the policy/proposal have any negative effect on the basis of:		
		Yes/No	Reason
	• Race	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Ethnic origins (including gypsies and travellers)	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Gender	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Disability	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Religion or belief	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Sexual orientation	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Age	No	Please see attached Annex 1
	• Low Income Households	No	Please see attached Annex 1

Appendix 1









Equalities Impact Assessment: South Bucks District Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy

Policy	Race	Ethnic Origin	Gender	Disability	Faith	Sexuality	Age	Deprivation	Commentary
Core Policy 1- Housing Provision and Delivery. Provision made for 2,200 to 2,800 dwellings in South Bucks by 2026. Focus on larger settlements.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	Proposed housing will be focused on the three largest settlements, with limited development in smaller settlements. The larger settlements have better access by public transport, which will benefit those without a car, including older people and those on lower incomes.
Core Policy 2 - Housing Type and Size. Aims to deliver mixed and sustainable communities through the encouragement of a range of flexible and adaptable housing that meets local need.	↔	↔	↑	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	The policy encourages dwellings built to Lifetime Homes standards, thereby enabling local people to stay in their own homes despite age or disability. Such dwellings also meet the needs of parents. Delivery of specialist accommodation for older people is supported.
Core Policy 3 - Affordable Housing. Seeks the provision of more affordable houses in the District, including rural exception sites in some villages.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	Affordable housing assists those whose needs are not met by the market, such as those on low incomes. It is provided in urban and rural areas, and can help young people to remain in their communities.
Core Policy 4 - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People. Provision will be made for new sites for these groups in accordance with requirements, using the criteria in the policy.	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	The policy supports people who are generally considered to be disadvantaged. Sites would need to be private but accessible, close to services and community facilities and designed to facilitate good management.

Policy	Race	Ethnic Origin	Gender	Disability	Faith	Sexuality	Age	Deprivation	Commentary
Core Policy 5 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation. Open space, sports and recreational facilities will be protected, enhanced, and created alongside new development.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	The policy does not discriminate against any groups, but it aims to retain and increase sport and recreation provision for South Bucks communities as a whole.
Core Policy 6 - Local Infrastructure Needs. Existing physical, social and green infrastructure will be protected, with new infrastructure provided when needed.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	Infrastructure improvements will be delivered across South Bucks, where and when it is needed (subject to funding), through partnerships with service and infrastructure providers. This policy should particularly benefit young and older people.
Core Policy 7 - Accessibility and Transport. The Council will seek to improve accessibility to services and ensure a safe sustainable transport network, rebalancing the transport system in favour of more sustainable modes of transport	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	The policy aims to ensure that development and communities of South Bucks are accessible to services / areas. This should be of particular benefit to those without access to a car, such as the old, young and deprived.
Core Policy 8 - Built Environment. The protection and enhancement of the District's historic environment. All new development to be of a high standard taking to account the efficient use of land.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	The built environment would be conserved and enhanced to the benefit of all South Bucks communities.

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Core Policy 9 - Natural Environment. The aim of the policy is to conserve existing landscape and biodiversity assets and enhance them where possible.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	South Bucks comprises high quality natural environments which contribute significantly to its character and the quality of life of local communities. The environment is accessible to all.
Core Policy 10 - Employment Existing employment land and premises will normally be retained. Support is given to new employment in accessible locations and to home working.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	South Bucks benefits from below average unemployment and in 2008, the number of jobs exceeded the number of local people. This provides an opportunity for people to live and work locally, reducing the need for travel, reducing disadvantage etc..
Core Policy 11 - Healthy and Viable Town and Village Centres. Support is given for new town centre uses in District and Local Centres, with Neighbourhood Centres being protected for local needs.	↔	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↔	↑	Town centres are seen as providing a central focus for activities and not just shopping. There are two District Centres and five Local centres which will meet the needs of local communities. There are also neighbourhood facilities providing a service for local people, including those with limited mobility.
Core Policy 12 - Sustainable Energy. The Council will promote and encourage energy efficiency and renewable / low carbon energy in all new development. In addition, retro fitting of energy efficiency measures will be encouraged.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	Climate change affects everyone in the District. South Bucks has one of the highest carbon footprints in the UK. Energy efficiency in buildings is one route to tackling high carbon emissions. Becoming energy efficient reduces the cost of household bills and can lever those of low household income out of fuel poverty, and prevent older people falling into fuel poverty.

Policy	Race	Ethnic Origin	Gender	Disability	Faith	Sexuality	Age	Deprivation	Commentary
Core Policy 13 - Environmental and Resources Management. The Council will seek to ensure the prudent and sustainable management of all the District's environmental resources.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	The efficient use of resources will be of benefit to everyone. Development would be steered away from existing sources noise and air pollution and areas of flooding where possible.
Core Policy 14 - Wilton Park (Opportunity Site). If released, the Wilton Park site would be developed for a high quality mix of residential and employment development, community facilities and open space.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	The policy aims to ensure that any development is sustainable through a mix of residential and employment development, community facilities and open space. It aims to integrate the development with Beaconsfield (Old Town), with improved public transport, renewable energy etc. Affordable housing would need to be provided.
Core Policy 15 - Mill Lane (Opportunity Site). A comprehensive, conservation-led approach for the regeneration of the site is supported, with a high quality mix of residential and commercial development, watercourses and parkland.	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	The policy aims to ensure that any development is sustainable through a mix of residential and commercial development, a hotel and open space. The site has been subject to a flood risk assessment and new development will be steered towards areas of lowest flood risk. Affordable housing would need to be provided.
Core Policy 16 - South of Iver (Opportunity Area). Appropriate employment generating development / redevelopment on Court Lane, Thorney Business Park and the Ridgeway Trading Estate is supported, particularly	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	The policy aims to increase opportunities for appropriate employment whilst at the same time encouraging the reduction of HGV movements in Iver, thereby improving the local environment.

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uses that would result in a reduction of HGV movements.									
Core Policy 17 - Other Development Sites. If other significant developments come forward during the plan period, a Development Brief will normally need to be prepared, prior to submission of a planning application.									If large sites come forward unexpectedly, a development brief will need to be prepared, and this should be subject to public consultation. This policy would have no significant impacts on any of the community groups.



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