



Form to be used for the Full Equalities Impact Assessment

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Service Area: Planning Services		Section: Planning Policy	Date of Initial assessment:	Key Person responsible for assessment: Arome Agamah	Date assessment commenced:		
Name of Policy to be assessed:			West End Spatial Framework and SPD				
1. In what area are there concerns that the policy could have a differential impact			Race		Disability		Age
			Gender reassignment		Religion or Belief		Sexual Orientation
			Sex		Pregnancy and Maternity		Marriage & Civil Partnership
Other strategic/ equalities considerations			Safeguarding/ Welfare of Children and vulnerable adults		Mental Wellbeing/ Community Resilience		
2. Background: Give the background information to the policy and the perceived problems with the policy which are the reason for the Impact Assessment.			The fundamental purpose of the Spatial Framework is to set out how the West End and its major new developments could become a thriving extension of the city quarter over the next 25 years. The Spatial Framework and its various strategies are important tools to guide and shape future development in the West End of Oxford in line with the councils overall objectives, the specific aspirations for the area and the Oxford Local Plan 2036 policies relevant to the area.				

	<p>A Supplementary Planning Document gives detail and advice on the implementation of existing adopted policies in the Oxford Local Plan 2036 should be applied in the West End and Osney Mead area. The SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of any planning application made on sites in the West End. Once the landowners are ready, detailed plans for the sites can be drawn up based on the guidance in this SPD.</p> <p>The framework and SPD have extensive remits and scope, as well as a long time span which taken together will have a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of those who live in the local area, and even across the entire city. They provide a framework for significant development and infrastructure projects that will dramatically change the physical environment and the patterns of work and movement over a large and strategic area of the city, which may result in unintended consequences with respect to safeguarding communities, access to opportunities and other equalities issues. As such it would be necessary to assess the strategies to determine how they address inequalities.</p>
<p>3. Methodology and Sources of Data:</p> <p>The methods used to collect data and what sources of data</p>	<p>Much of the grounding for the strategies contained in the spatial framework is derived from the local plan and its evidence base. Beyond the local plan, the spatial framework is informed by various policy and strategy documents developed outside the immediate remit of planning, including movement strategies, economic and city centre strategies amongst others. The full list is contained in appendix A of the spatial framework document. There has also been a continuous process of engagement with internal and external stakeholders involved in the West End area, including individual teams within the city and county councils, as well as landowners, agents and other external parties.</p> <p>The SPD serves as an implementation framework for the local plan and much of the content is derived from the spatial framework. It is comprised of various studies on a range of topics such as housing and employment, sustainability, site analysis and conversations with infrastructure and service providers. The local plan evidence base is extensive and has informed policies that are directly applicable to the subject area including site allocation and areas of change policies.</p> <p>The information and data synthesised within the spatial framework was broad and extensive, building upon the evidence base that informed the Local Plan while going in depth on site and area</p>

	<p>specific aspects including the impact of individual development schemes and plans. It effectively forms an evidence base in its own right and in turn informs the guidance and strategies that form the SPD.</p>
<p>4. Consultation</p> <p>This section should outline all the consultation that has taken place on the EIA. It should include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why you carried out the consultation. • Details about how you went about it. • A summary of the replies you received from people you consulted. • An assessment of your proposed policy (or policy options) in the light of the responses you received. • A statement of what you plan to do next 	<p>The Council ran a consultation exercise between March and April 2021 as part of the initial scoping work for the SPD. It was publicised via the council webpages, direct contacts with voluntary organisations, businesses and neighbourhood and residents groups; as well as posters put up locally in the site area. The consultation comprised of questionnaire – containing general questions about how respondents felt about the area, some questions about the scope and vision of the SPD and some questions to identify priorities for what should happen in the area in the future. A Google Jamboard was used as a further means of getting views on the vision of the SPD, based on four themed open access maps with questions to guide responses in a way that could be tied to identifiable areas as specifically as possible.</p> <p>The responses highlighted a number of issues which the City Council will need to ensure are addressed in the SPD. The built environment was commonly referred to as being of poor quality, derelict and disjointed, with areas of wasted space and poorly maintained open space. Congestion and car dominance was a commonly raised problem, as was the provision of public transport and its integration with wider areas. There were also issues relating to poor quality walking/cycling infrastructure, a difficulty navigating the area for many with various barriers to movement such as the river, railway and main roads; as well as issues of feeling unsafe, particularly for women, - this seems to be prompted by various types of anti-social behaviour and poor lighting. In relation to the natural environment, flood risk is a concern; as is the prominence of grey landscaping and an environment broadly lacking in greenery like trees and spaces for biodiversity. The canal and river were felt to be under-utilised and there are also concerns about pollution including air and noise. Suggestions for improving the area’s appeal were wide-spread and often built upon addressing the identified areas of concern. These initial findings formed one of the bases from which the broader work of the spatial framework was built upon.</p> <p>The engagement process for the development of the spatial framework unfolded across a number of stages. The consultants initially mapped relevant internal and external stakeholders and reviewed with the Council. Many stakeholders were needed in order to cover the complexities of the West End</p>

and its geographic reach. A core group of internal stakeholders - consisting of the consultant and client team i.e. Planning Policy team; and the Internal Steering Group – made up of a number of City and County council officers covering planning, housing, employability, land uses, flood risk, infrastructure and transport. External stakeholders who were from a variety of backgrounds. Regular meetings, workshops and one-to-one sessions are organised that helped develop the vision and include the detail, whilst monitoring and managing progress.

A visioning workshop was held in July 2021, bringing various stakeholders together to discuss the development of the vision with the discussion structured through four key themes: Place; People; Connectivity; and Enterprise. Virtually aided with Miro boards, this workshop had an attendance of 60 people. The use of Miro allowed people to interact through writing notes, speaking and drawing their opinions and inputs.

As a follow up to the information sharing sessions and the visioning workshop, a number of ideas and technical workshops were organised.

A report was taken to Cabinet on 15th June 2022, which sought approval for the Draft West End SPD to go out to public consultation. Approval was given by Cabinet and the Draft West End SPD was subsequently put out for public consultation which ran for a period of 6 weeks from Wednesday 29th June to Wednesday 10th August 2022. A request was made for an extension of time for an additional week which was granted. So the closing date for comments was Wednesday 17th August 2022. The public consultation therefore ran for a total of 7 weeks.

A 'virtual' presentation of the Draft West End and Osney SPD was given by the consultants Levitt Bernstein to the members of the West End Strategic Board on the 7th July 2022.

The City Centre Task Force, comprising a mix of officers from the City and County Council together with representatives of businesses within the City centre were given a virtual presentation of the Draft SPD and invited to read this document together with the Spatial Framework and Design Guide and provide comments within the consultation period.

	<p>On the 20th July a 'virtual' public consultation as held by officers to explain how the SPD should be used and its relationship to the Spatial Framework and Design Guide. Invitations were sent to those who had been involved in the earlier scoping work together with the stakeholders invited to the visioning workshop, by Levitt Bernstein, alongside landowners, amenity groups and local residents associations. Following the presentation some additional comments and points of clarification were sent into officers. The presentation was published for others to view as well on the City Council's website. An officer response to the comments received was sent to those who had asked further supplementary questions.</p>
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5. Assessment of Impact:

Provide details of the assessment of the policy on the six primary equality strands. There may have been other groups or individuals that you considered. Please also consider whether the policy, strategy or spending decisions could have an impact on safeguarding and / or the welfare of children and vulnerable adults

Race Neutral	Disability Positive	Age Positive
Gender reassignment Neutral	Religion or Belief Neutral	Sexual Orientation Neutral
Sex Neutral	Pregnancy and Maternity Neutral	Marriage & Civil Partnership Neutral

Race:

No equalities impact identified.

Disability:

The SF and SPD are in keeping with the ambitions of the Local Plan 2036 to focus development in locations that are accessible by public transport and other non-car modes, as well as encouraging development, services and facilities that are fully accessible to individuals of all abilities. Sustainability forms one of the key themes that run through the strategies and proposals in both documents, and a key aspect is the creation of mixed use neighbours that are diverse, with a sense of place and that encourage a sense of belonging. The Spatial Framework and SPD promote this by encouraging facilities, services and spaces that are flexible and adaptable to accommodate all abilities.

Overall the impact on this equality strand is considered to be positive.

Age:

The SF and SPD are in keeping with the ambitions of the local to focus development in locations that are accessible by public transport and other non-car modes, as well as encouraging development,

services and facilities that are fully accessible to individuals of all abilities. Sustainability forms one of the themes that run through the strategies and proposals in both documents, and a key aspect is the creation of mixed use neighbours that are diverse, with a sense of place and encourage a sense of belonging. This includes intergenerational communities, and the framework promotes this by encouraging facilities and amenities that are flexible and suitable for all ages, a mix of housing types and tenures, and adaptable spaces that can accommodate all abilities.

Overall the impact on this equality strand is considered to be positive.

Gender reassignment:

No equalities impact identified.

Religion or Belief:

No equalities impact identified.

Sexual Orientation:

No equalities impact identified.

Sex:

No equalities impact identified.

Pregnancy or Maternity:

No equalities impact identified.

	<p>Marriage & Civil Partnership:</p> <p>No equalities impact identified.</p>
<p>6. Consideration of Measures:</p>	<p>The Spatial Framework and SPD have their basis on the Local Plan, specifically the relevant site allocation and areas of change policies that cover the West End and Osney Mead area. As with other</p>

<p>This section should explain in detail all the consideration of alternative approaches/mitigation of adverse impact of the policy</p>	<p>policies in the Local Plan, full risk assessments were completed at early stages of development of all policy options, where all possible negative effects and implications were identified. The findings of these risk assessments were then used to inform choice of policy approaches, and to refine and develop the policy options and approaches into fully fleshed policies. Where potential adverse impacts were raised and/or identified, policy approaches were changed or adapted, or measures of mitigation were internalised into the final written policy. It is therefore expected that any internalised mitigations and adaptations will be carried through to the framework and SPD through the relevant policies.</p>
<p>6a. Monitoring Arrangements:</p> <p>Outline systems which will be put in place to monitor for adverse impact in the future and this should include all relevant timetables. In addition it could include a summary and assessment of your monitoring, making clear whether you found any evidence of discrimination.</p>	<p>The Local Plan includes a general monitoring framework and the council will monitor the implementation and impact of the policies through the Annual Monitoring Report. As the spatial framework and SPD are based on the Local Plan, the monitoring framework can be used to check on the impact of individual relevant policies, including the site allocation and area of change policies, and present them within the Annual monitoring report or form the basis of a separate report if needed. In addition, ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders will help provide a greater understanding on potential impacts on protected groups which can inform updates and changes to individual policies in following iterations of the Local Plan as needed.</p>
<p>7. Date reported and signed off by City Executive Board:</p>	
<p>8. Conclusions:</p> <p>What are your conclusions drawn from the results in terms of the policy impact</p>	<p>The strategies, guidance and proposals that form the contents of these documents have been developed to direct the quantity, quality of timescale for significant change in a central part of the city that will result in long lasting changes to the physical environment and economic landscape of the city.</p> <p>The strategies, guidance and proposals that form the contents of these documents have been developed in order to be in complete accordance with the Local Plan and its objectives, with respect to the overall plan and specifically with respect to site allocation and area of change policies that envisage and plan for the scale of change proposed. The local plan through its development has been assessed with respect to potential impacts on equalities, and as adopted it has been designed</p>

		to make efforts to improve the relevant equality strands where possible, and to otherwise have a neutral impact. It is therefore expected that the spatial framework and SPD will also each have a similar impact on equalities. It is not anticipated that there will be a direct impact on equality issues related to gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, or religion and beliefs as a result of the strategies and guidance contained within them; whilst it is considered that these strategies and resulting development patterns are likely to have some positive effect on the age and disability equality strands.			
9. Are there implications for the Service Plans?	YES/ <u>NO</u>	10. Date the Service Plans will be updated	N/A	11. Date copy sent to Equalities Lead Officer	
.13. Date reported to Scrutiny and Executive Board:		14. Date reported to City Executive Board:		12. The date the report on EqlA will be published	

Signed (completing officer)

Signed (Lead Officer)

Please list the team members and service areas that were involved in this process:

Equalities Lead Officer
 Service Manager
 Legal Services Manager