

Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document
Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
November 2022

Title of proposal	Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Robyn Bennett (Planning Officer)
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Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Vicki Popplewell Planning Policy Manager
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	NA
Date EIA completed	05/11/2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Helen Martin

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required (Please provide as much information as possible)

This Equalities Impact Assessment supports the Draft Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

The existing ‘New Housing Development SPD’ was first adopted in 2007 and updated in 2013. The updated SPD will be retitled ‘Residential Design Guide SPD’ and will incorporate the Council’s Planning Guidance Note (PGN) 17 – Housing Extensions, thus bringing all guidance relating to new housing development and residential extensions into one document.

The aim of the SPD is to provide localised guidance in relation to design and density to ensure that residential applications, including new housing

development and householder extensions, respect the local character, identity of the borough and achieve a high level of design.

The Updated SPD will include new sections and guidance to address the changes to peoples living and working environments following Covid-19 Pandemic, such as a greater move to home working and running a business from home. As well as including guidance in relation to the Council's approach to assessing applications for Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and Children's Care Homes.

Following consultation and adoption of the SPD, the 'Residential Design Guide SPD' will supersede current guidance and will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The SPD is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations (2012)

2. Evidence used / considered

The SPD is based on the policies contained within the Local Plan, which has been subject to its own Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA).

3. Consultation

Part 5 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) sets out the requirements for any public consultation to be undertaken in the preparation of the SPD.

As this is the first stage in the SPD production process, there has been no previous consultations undertaken.

The EqIA will be published alongside the Draft SPD for a six-week Public Consultation.

The consultation will be open to all members of the public and stakeholders. In line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), we will write/email consultees on the Dudley Local Plan Consultation Database, local agents/developers who regularly submit planning applications in the Borough, as well as advertising the consultation via the Council's website and social media channels. We will consult hard to reach groups as well as accessibility groups as part of the consultation process.

Following the consultation, all representations received will be analysed and addressed in the production of a final version of the SPD.

4. Assess likely impact

The impact or likely impact of the SPD on specific groups (race, gender, disability, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy/maternity) has been considered.

It is considered that there would be no significant impacts as a result of the SPD and it is not anticipated to have any significant impact on the protected characteristic classes (reviewed below).

It is considered that the guidance contained within the SPD will result in the requirement for well-designed and accessible new developments which respond to Climate Change and ensure housing developments that are well designed, more accessible, built to higher environmental standards that reduces emissions and create a sense of place. Therefore, there is likely to be an overall positive impact for residents, including equality groups.

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
Age	✓			<p>The SPD provides guidance relating to the requirement for a mix of housing types and tenures which would have a positive impact on both younger and older people by requiring different housing types to meet the needs of varying demographics.</p> <p>Additionally, guidance is provided requiring new developments to incorporate accessibility and sustainable transport as part of new developments. This will have a positive impact on younger and older generations who rely more on public transport to access local amenities and facilities.</p> <p>The overall guidance requires a high level of design and the creation of sustainable developments, this will have a positive impact for all ages as it</p>

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
				would create a 'nicer' living environment and help mitigate against climate change.
Disability	✓			While the SPD does not provide specific guidance for accessibility for disabilities, as this is covered in the existing Access for All SPD, the Residential Design Guide SPD does require accessibility and legibility for new developments and the wider connectivity of new developments with the wider area. This would result in a positive impact on residents with disabilities through improved accessibility.
Gender reassignment			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD
Race			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD
Religion or belief			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD
Sex			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
Sexual orientation			✓	No potential impacts have been identified for this group as a result of the guidance contained within the SPD
Other				None

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?
N/A
6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?
N/A
7. Monitoring arrangements
Following the end of the consultation period, all representations shall be considered before the final version of the SPD is taken to Cabinet for adoption. Following this consultation and adoption, an updated EqIA shall be undertaken.
8. Action planning
N/A
9. Publish the EIA
The EqIA shall be published alongside the Draft SPD and any other consultation documents and will be available on the Council's Website.