

Diversity impact assessment

TITLE: Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation
DATE 5 September 2023
LEAD OFFICER. Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy
<p>1 Summary description of the proposed change</p> <p>This is a consultation as an interim stage to the preparation of a new Local Plan, that sets planning policy for Medway. The consultation document seeks views on the vision and strategic objectives for the Local Plan, and options for land for development allocations up to 2040.</p> <p>The current Local Plan was adopted in 2003 and needs to be updated to plan for sustainable development in Medway up to 2040. The consultation document does not set out new policies or preferred site allocations.</p>
<p>2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment</p> <p>The Local Plan draws information from a range of published data sources, and council and wider strategies and reports to identify the characteristics of Medway. This is used to identify issue and needs and set out a policy response, eg types of housing or services needed as Medway’s population grows and changes.</p>

<p>3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?</p> <p>This is a high-level consultation that seeks input to planning for sustainable development in Medway. The consultation and engagement strategy seeks to reach a range of communities across Medway, including those are under-represented in planning consultations.</p> <p>The Local Plan will seek to advance equality of opportunity, but this will be more meaningfully addressed at the draft plan stage that will follow this consultation.</p>
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Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age	No	-	-
Disability	No	-	-

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Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Gender reassignment	No	-	-
Marriage/civil partnership	No	-	-
Pregnancy/maternity	No	-	-
Race	No	-	-
Religion/belief	No	-	-
Sex	No	-	-
Sexual orientation	No	-	-
Other (eg low income groups)	No	-	-

4 Summary of the likely impacts

The consultation will be open for all residents in Medway. There are limited impacts on different community sectors at this stage. The vision and strategic objectives include provision of a range of housing types, promoting health and well-being, and access to local services and greenspaces.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

N/A

6 Action plan

Prepare draft Local Plan including policies for sustainable development, that promote the well-being of communities across Medway.

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
Produce DIA for Draft Local Plan reviewing potential impacts of policies and site allocations in 2024.	Planning Policy	Spring 2024

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7 Recommendation
To publish the consultation document seeking input to the preparation of the new Local Plan, and promote opportunities for wider community sectors to engage in the consultation.
8 Authorisation
The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored
Assistant Director
Dee O'Rourke
Date of authorisation