

Diversity impact assessment

TITLE Arches Chatham Neighbourhood Plan
DATE 24 April 2024
LEAD OFFICER. Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy, Planning Service, RCE
<p>1 Summary description of the proposed change</p> <p>Arches Chatham Neighbourhood Forum has prepared a Neighbourhood Plan for its neighbourhood area. It has been subject to independent examination and has been put to referendum. Following a successful outcome at referendum, the Council is formally adopting the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the development plan for Medway.</p> <p>As part of the development plan for the area it will be used in determining planning applications, alongside the Medway Local Plan.</p> <p>The Arches Chatham Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies for the sustainable growth of the Neighbourhood Area of Arches Chatham, which covers parts of Luton and central Chatham. It includes policies for housing, built and natural environment, sustainable transport, local economy, community spaces, as well as setting out a number of site allocations.</p> <p>The policies guide decisions on future development. The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the defined Arches Chatham Neighbourhood Area.</p>
<p>2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment</p> <p>The Plan considers the demographic profile of the neighbourhood, made up of over 8000 people enriched in a diversity of cultural and generational backgrounds. It notes issues of high levels of deprivation.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Forum carried out substantial consultation and engagement with all sectors of the local community throughout the preparation of the plan in recent years. The policies seek to provide for sustainable development in the neighbourhood, supporting local communities and enhancing the area's built and natural environment. These include environmental improvements to air quality and amenity, and housing to meet the needs of local residents. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are intended to provide the benefits of sustainable development for all residents. Given the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is difficult to define impacts on specific groups in the community, as the policies will apply to the whole neighbourhood area in relation to development proposals.</p>

Diversity impact assessment

3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to:

Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

(insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)

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

4 Summary of the likely impacts

The Neighbourhood Plan promotes sustainable development in the Arches Chatham neighbourhood. It aims to promote social and economic well-being for residents, and enhance the environment. All residents are potentially affected. The housing policies seek to provide for a range of local needs, including for families and people on low incomes. The draft plan seeks to secure community facilities that can benefit a range of local residents, particularly those who are less mobile, and which support specific cultural and religious communities. Policies that seek to improve urban greening and air quality will benefit

Diversity impact assessment

the wider community. The policies on public realm and provision of sports facilities and play spaces recognise the needs of people with disabilities.

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

N/A

6 Action plan

Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date

7 Recommendation

To proceed with adopting the Arches Chatham Neighbourhood Plan as part of the development plan for Medway.

To monitor the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on an annual basis, following adoption.

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

Date of authorisation