

Diversity impact assessment

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| TITLE | Medway Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation |
| DATE | 9 May 2024 |
| LEAD OFFICER. | Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy, RCE |

1. Summary description of the proposed change

What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed?
How does it compare with the current situation?

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 options for locations and sites for development allocations up to 2041, and proposed policies for managing Medway's growth.

The current Local Plan was adopted in 2003 and needs to be updated to plan for sustainable development in Medway up to 2041.

2. Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user.

Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile

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.

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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)

This consultation 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 who are under-represented in planning consultations.

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.

| Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010) | Adverse impact | Advance equality | Foster good relations |
|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Age | No | - | - |
| Disability | No | - | - |
| 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

Who will be affected?

How will they be affected?

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?

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What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?
 Are there alternative providers?
 Can demand for services be managed differently?

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 |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| Produce DIA for Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan reviewing potential impacts of policies and site allocations in 2025. | Planning Service | January 2025 |

7. Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be: to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate, consider alternatives, gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

Produce DIA for Draft Local Plan reviewing potential impacts of policies and site allocations in 2025.

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

Mark Breathwick

Date of authorisation