

Diversity impact assessment

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| TITLE | Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan – Adoption |
| DATE | 20 December 2024 |
| LEAD OFFICER. | Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy, Planning Service, RCE |

1. Summary description of the proposed change

Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Parish Council has prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan for its parish and submitted it to Medway Council to progress the process of bringing the plan to adoption. Following consultation and independent examination, on 27 August 2024 Cabinet approved sending the plan to referendum. The referendum was held on 7 November, and supported by the majority of people who voted. The plan is considered ‘made’ and now afforded planning weight as a material consideration.

Once adopted, or ‘made’, it forms part of the development plan for the area, alongside the Medway Local Plan, and will be used in determining planning applications.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies for the sustainable development of the parish of Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden. It includes policies for community facilities and services, the natural environment, transport, design, heritage, and housing.

The policies guide decisions on future development. The Neighbourhood Plan will apply to the parish of Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden.

2. Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

The draft Plan considers the demographic profile of the rural parish.

The Neighbourhood Planning group carried out consultation and engagement with the local community throughout the preparation of the draft plan. The policies seek to provide for sustainable development in the parish, supporting local communities and protecting the area’s environment.

These include maintenance and enhancement of community facilities and services, green spaces, and housing to meet the needs of local residents. The policies and 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

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community, as the policies will apply to the whole parish in relation to development proposals.

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 |

4. Summary of the likely impacts

The draft Neighbourhood Plan promotes sustainable development in the parish of Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden. It aims to promote community well-being and identity, health and well-being, a sustainable environment and housing for the community.

All residents are potentially affected. The housing policies seek to provide for a range of local needs, including for older people, people with limited mobility and people on lower incomes. The draft plan seeks to secure community facilities that can benefit a range of local residents.

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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 the formal adoption of the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden 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