

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of person completing the assessment	Dan Knowles	Date of assessment	26 April 2024
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Name of the proposed activity being assessed	Special Protection Area Tariffs Supplementary Planning Document	Is this a new or existing activity?	New
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Who will implement the activity and who will be responsible for it?	The Planning service will implement the SPD. All planning staff will be responsible for implementing it.		
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1. Determining the relevance to equality

What are the aims, objectives and purpose of the activity?	To ensure that when homes are built within 400m to 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, adequate mitigation is provided to prevent harm to the heath's protected species.
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Is this a major activity that significantly affects how services or functions are delivered?	No. It is a minor update to an existing, established activity.	Who will benefit from this activity and how?	The Council benefits by fulfilling its obligations under the habitats regulations. The public benefit through protection of the borough's natural environment. The planning service and planning applicant benefit from certainty as to how the approach will be applied and that mitigation will be effective, allowing development to proceed.
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Does it relate to a function that has been identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?	No. It relates to planning, which is equally important to different groups.	Who are the stakeholders? Does the activity affect employees, service users or the wider community?	Planning professionals, planning applicants, the public at large.
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Based on the above information, is the activity relevant to equality?

Yes – continue to section 2	Yes
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No – please record your reasons why the activity is not relevant to equality	
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<p>2. Is the proposed activity accessible for all the protected groups listed below? <i>(Consider in what ways the activity might create difficulties or barriers to parts of the workforce, community or protected groups. How might one or more groups be excluded because of the activity?)</i></p>			
Protected groups	Yes	No	Evidence
Disability	Yes		
Race	Yes		
Gender	Yes		
Sexual orientation	Yes		
Age	Yes		
Religion or belief	Yes		
Transgender or transsexual	Yes		
Marriage and civil partnership	Yes		
Pregnancy or maternity	Yes		

<p>3. Is it likely the proposed activity will have a negative impact on one or more protected groups?</p>			
Protected groups	Yes	No	Evidence
Disability		No	
Race		No	<p>Note – the SPD includes guidance on how the tariffs will be applied to plots and pitches, which are associated with specific ethnic groups. However, the guidance is intended to ensure that these developments are treated fairly and that mitigation is set on an evidential basis so as to avoid discrimination.</p>

Gender		No	
Sexual orientation		No	
Age		No	
Religion or belief		No	
Transgender or transsexual		No	
Marriage and civil partnership		No	
Pregnancy or maternity		No	

4. What action can be taken to address any negative impact? What measures could be included to promote a positive impact? (*Consider whether it is possible to amend or change the activity due to the likely adverse impact whilst still delivering the objective. Is it possible to consider a different activity which still achieves the aims but avoids an adverse impact? Is an action plan required to reduce any actual or potential adverse impact?*)

No negative impact identified.

5. What are the main sources of evidence that have been used to identify the likely impacts on the different protected groups? (*Use relevant quantitative and qualitative information that is available from sources such as previous EIA's, engagement with staff and service users, equality monitoring, complaints, comments, customer equality profiles, feedback, issues raised at previous consultations and known inequalities*).

The EIA produced for the Guildford Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy 2017.

The results of the public consultation on the above document in 2016.

Engagement with Development Management officers who have experience in dealing with issues surrounding plots and pitches.

6. Has any consultation been carried out (e.g. with employees, service users or the wider community)? Please provide details

The Council's lead officer for Equality Impact Assessment.

The SPD is subject to a minimum 4week consultation, to be undertaken.

7. Is further consultation required as a result of any negative impact identified? If so, what groups do you intend to engage with and how?

No

8. Conclusion of Equality Impact Assessment - please summarise your findings

No negative equality impacts identified. The SPD should prevent discrimination relating to plots and pitches.

Name of person completing assessment: Dan Knowles

Date: 26 April 2024

Job title: Senior Planning Policy Officer

Signature: Dan Knowles

Senior manager name: Stuart Harrison

Date: 26 April 2024

Signature: Stuart Harrison