

## Equality Screening Form

Question	Response
Q1) Name of the strategy, policy, programme or project being assessed.	Forest Heath Proposed Submission Site Allocations Local Plan
Q2) In no more than five lines and using Plain English, summarise the purpose of the policy or proposal, and its desired outcomes.	The Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) is part of Forest Heath's Local Plan. It defines settlement boundaries, identifies land and sets out policies allocating sites in the towns, key service centres and primary villages for housing and growth, the expansion of Moulton Primary School, a food store in Newmarket and the production of town centre masterplans for Brandon, Mildenhall and Newmarket town centres.
Q3) Who should benefit from the proposal and in what way?	<p>The growth proposed will provide opportunities to meet the housing, including affordable housing, employment and retail needs of the district for the next fifteen years.</p> <p>Research referred to below demonstrates higher market rents in Forest Heath due to the increased demand from USAFE personnel and their families. The proposals for affordable housing will thus benefit those on low incomes.</p> <p>In addition, we anticipate that the potential to increase leisure facilities will improve the overall health and wellbeing of people who live in Forest Heath.</p>
Q4) Is there any evidence or reason to believe that in relation to this proposal, there may be a difference in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of participation</li> <li>• Uptake by different groups</li> <li>• Needs or experiences of different groups</li> </ul>	The formal consultation part of the planning process is mainly through written representations, but the council has also carried out public exhibitions and meetings at each stage of the process to increase levels of participation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities</li> <li>• Other areas?</li> </ul>	
<p>Q5) Using the evidence listed above, fill in the table below to highlight the groups you think this policy or proposal has the potential to impact upon:</p> <p>(i) Is there any potential for negative impact? Yes or No</p> <p>(ii) Are there opportunities for positive impact or to promote equality of opportunity?</p>	<p>The provision of new housing across the district gives rise to opportunities for positive impact to promote equality of opportunity. These are listed in the table below.</p> <p>It is possible that at the level of individual new developments there will be externalities that may negatively impact on existing residents. However, these will be considered and dealt with through the development management process as individual applications come forward.</p>
<p>Q6) Considering your answers to questions 1-5, do you believe a Full Equality Impact Assessment is needed?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Q7) Considering our duty to proactively tackle disadvantage and promote equality of opportunity, list the actions required.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**Impacts Table**

	<b>Is there potential for negative impact? YES or NO</b>	<b>Are there opportunities for positive impact? YES or NO</b>	<b>If YES, please provide details of the impact below</b>	
			<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>
<b>All groups or society generally</b>	NO	YES	Sites allocated for housing development up to 2031 in the	

			<p>document will provide for the following number of dwellings:</p> <p>Newmarket – 321</p> <p>Mildenhall – 1412</p> <p>Brandon – 33</p> <p>Lakenheath – 828</p> <p>Red Lodge – 1129</p> <p>Primary villages 660</p> <p>The increase in dwellings with designated affordable housing will positively benefit people who live in Forest Heath. Similarly to the country as a whole, Forest Heath’s housing supply does not meet current demand.</p>	
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<p><b>Age</b> - Older or younger people</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The council has allocated provision for 21 'dementia friendly' 2 bedroom apartments built to lifetime homes standard for those over the age of 55 associated with the race horing industry. This specific site allocation will positively impact on older people by providing more options for suitable accommodation, something which is important due to Forest Heath's increasingly ageing population.</p> <p>Furthermore, the 12 units of affordable housing in Beck Row and 10 affordable units in Newmarket will be beneficial for</p>	
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			younger people who are struggling to afford their own accommodation.	
<b>Disability</b> - People with a disability	NO	YES	The housing provided ensures that all residents will have homes suitable for their needs and facilities that are accessible for all.	
<b>Sex</b> - Women or men	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of gender.	
<b>Pregnancy or maternity</b> - including expectant or new parents i.e. pregnancy and maternity	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of pregnancy or maternity.	
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b> – including same sex couples	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will	

			benefit all sectors regardless of marital status.	
<b>Race</b> - People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)	NO	YES	<p>The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of race.</p> <p>Research carried out by ORS showed that the majority of the existing traveller population residing in Forest Heath are settled and have stopped travelling in the terms included in the August 2015 definition. As a result, there is no identified additional need to provide for those falling within the definition in Forest Heath up to 2036. As a result, there are no site</p>	

			allocations for Roma Gypsies and Irish travellers.	
<b>Religion</b> - People with a religion or belief (or who choose not to have a religion or belief)	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all people with a religion or belief or those who choose not to have a religion or belief.	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> - People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) or in a Civil Partnership	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of sexual orientation.	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> - People who are transitioning from one gender to another	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of gender reassignment.	

<p><i>Families and those with parenting or caring responsibilities (The Families Test)</i></p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The impacts on families and those with parenting or caring responsibilities are considered to be small and indirect, and it is not sensible or proportionate to apply the test.</p>	
<p><i>Individuals on low income</i></p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The document plans for sites that, when developed, will provide a mix of house types, including a proportion of affordable housing to meet the needs of the council as identified in the SHMA.</p> <p>Research suggests that Forest Heath displays high financial vulnerability mainly due to higher levels of fuel poverty</p>	

			<p>and transport costs due to mode of transport, distances travelled, fuel type and housing<sup>1</sup>. This all contributes to higher levels of rural deprivation than the rest of the country.</p> <p>In addition, Forest Heath experiences exceptionally high levels of market rents due to the demand from USAFE personnel and their families<sup>2</sup> Overall affordability is also slightly worse than for England. The provision of affordable units will thus positively impact those on lower incomes.</p>	
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/assets/JSNA/JSNA-Blog/Rural-Deprivation-in-Suffolk-May-2016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Forest Heath District Market Signals and Objectively Assessed Housing Need February 2016 (Peter Brett Associates)

<i>Those suffering rural isolation</i>	NO	YES	The document plans for housing and economic growth the impact of which may be of benefit to those suffering from rural isolation through enhancing the viability of existing services and facilities, and in some cases through provision of new/expanded services/facilities accessible to those living in the rural area.	
<i>Those who do not have English as a first language</i>	NO	YES	The document plans positively for the future and will benefit all sectors regardless of language spoken.	

<b>Action Plan</b>				
<b>Equality group/ characteristic</b>	<b>Action/milestone</b>	<b>Responsibility</b> (Project manager or partner organisation)	<b>Achievement date</b>	<b>Monitoring arrangements</b>

**Sign off section**

This Screening Level EqIA was completed by:

**Name** Liz Barnard

**Job Title** Service Manager (Corporate Policy)

**Signature** EH Barnard (signed)

**Date** 21/03/2017

**On completion, please submit this document with the policy or proposal. Guidance and advice on draft and final versions can be obtained from:**

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