

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document

Equality Impact Assessment

January 2022

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council has prepared the Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to support the implementation of the landscape, design and heritage related policies in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. It expands upon and updates the guidance provided within the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD adopted in 2007.
- 1.2 The purpose of the SPD is to complement the requirements of the specific planning policies on landscape, heritage and design contained within the District Council's Local Plan. It sets out clear and practical guidance with the following key aims of:
 - guiding the preparation and consideration of planning applications to enhance the quality of new development within Huntingdonshire; and
 - providing a methodology for neighbourhood planning groups to produce their own landscape and townscape assessments to support policies within neighbourhood plans.
- 1.3 The SPD has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). The District Council have taken specific account of the public sector equality duty in S149 of the Equality Act 2010. This EqIA has been produced alongside the SPD to assess the potential adverse impacts of the document on various equality groups.
- 1.4 The EqIA document sets out how the needs of equality groups have been taken into account during the preparation and development of the Landscape and Townscape SPD. Its purpose is to thoroughly assess the likely implications of the proposed SPD on various equality groups once it is adopted. This enables the District Council to identify direct and non-direct discrimination against equality groups and explore options for mitigating such impacts and improving the document.
- 1.5 A draft version of the Landscape and Townscape SPD was subject to public consultation between 15 October to 10 December 2021. Representations received have been taken into account and changes have been made to the final SPD. These changes are not considered to be significant and thus do not change the outcome of this assessment.

2. Equality Impact Assessments

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire District Council is fully committed to ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to play an active and positive role in considering the planning issues which affect them and the District as a whole.
- 2.2 The production of an EqlA is a proactive approach to ensuring it meets its general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and
 - Foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.

3. Extent of the Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that the organisation does not discriminate in the way it provides services and employment and that it promotes equality, diversity and positive community relations across the district.
- 3.2 This EqlA ensures that equality issues have been appropriately addressed in the preparation and development of the SPD. This assessment highlights the equality and diversity considerations which have been considered in the creation of the SPD. This supports the assessment process and could potentially pre-empt any adverse impacts on equality groups which may result from the guidance contained within the SPD.
- 3.3 The SPD provides detailed guidance to assist in the implementation of policies adopted in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. The strategy for development, site allocations and policies within the Local Plan were subject to a detailed [Equalities Impact Assessment](#) (January 2018). The assessment found that the policies contained within the Local Plan would have either a neutral impact on those with a protected characteristic or in the case of the 'Age', 'Disability' and 'Pregnancy and Maternity' characteristics there would be a positive impact.
- 3.4 For the purpose of this assessment, the following groups have been identified:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender
 - Gender Reassignment
 - Marriage and Civil Partnership
 - Pregnancy and Maternity
 - Religion & Belief
 - Race
 - Sex
 - Sexual Orientation
- 3.5 This assessment explores and recommends actions that, once adopted, will help the Council to anticipate and address any negative consequences which may arise and identify opportunities for the ongoing promotion of equality within the District.

4. Final Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 The Landscape and Townscape SPD has been subjected to a final EqIA.
- 4.2 The final assessment has identified no negative impacts upon the identified characteristics. The results of this assessment can be found in Appendix 1 to this report. The SPD will have a particularly positive impact for age and disability with all the remaining characteristics having a neutral impact. The assessment highlighted that the approach towards conserving, reinforcing and enhancing where possible local character and the natural environment will overall have a positive impact upon all the residents of Huntingdonshire now and is likely to lead to greater benefits in the long term.
- 4.3 The SPD encourages a better quality of life through integrated design reflective of local character, the promotion of integrated local facilities, connections to enjoy the countryside and areas of amenity and green space as well as appropriate flood protection measures and enhanced natural features and connections be incorporated into new developments throughout Huntingdonshire.
- 4.4 Taking all of the above into account, the SPD is likely to have a positive impact upon the built and natural environment.

Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Directorate / Service Area	Development Services - Strategic Growth
Officer undertaking the assessment	Name: Natalie Elworthy Job Title: Planning Policy Officer Contact details: natalie.elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Document being assessed	Landscape and Townscape SPD/ assessment of equalities against the SPD.

Aims of the Landscape and Townscape SPD and relation to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036
<p>The Landscape and Townscape SPD has been prepared to support Huntingdonshire District Council's landscape, design and heritage planning policies contained within the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. It sets out clear and practical guidance to supplement local and national planning policy with the following key aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. guiding the preparation and consideration of planning applications to enhance the quality of new development within Huntingdonshire and 2. providing a methodology for neighbourhood planning groups to produce their own landscape and townscape assessments to support policies within neighbourhood plans. <p>The SPD does not allocate any land for development. The SPD provides detailed guidance to assist in the implementation of policies adopted in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. The strategy for development, site allocations and policies within the Local Plan were subject to a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment (January 2018). That assessment found that the policies contained within the Local Plan would have either a neutral impact on those with a protected characteristic or in the case of the 'Age', 'Disability' and 'Pregnancy and Maternity' characteristics there would be a positive impact.</p>
Who is involved in this impact assessment?
<p>Planning policy officers within the District Council have produced this SPD with liaison with design, landscape and heritage colleagues. A public consultation has been carried out on a draft version of the SPD, consulting with a broad range of audiences such as local and parish councillors/councils, statutory bodies, interested groups and the general public.</p>

What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	Y		
Disability	Y		
Gender reassignment		Y	
Marriage and civil partnership		Y	
Pregnancy and maternity		Y	
Race		Y	
Religion or belief		Y	
Sex		Y	
Sexual orientation		Y	

For each of the above characteristics where there is a positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

Positive Impact
<p>Age and Disability</p> <p>The SPD tackles principles of inclusive design and supports the integration of further local community services and facilities. The benefits of this to people of all ages and those with disabilities is positive. These are expected to be integrated within the built framework of the village/town so that they are accessible to the population. This supports the social strand of sustainable development supporting proposals that offer a public benefit and respond positively to their local natural and built context, thus making local communities more resilient.</p>
Negative Impact
<p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Neutral Impact
<p>The SPD is not expected to have any impact on the following protected characteristics:</p> <p>Gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that that the approach towards conserving, reinforcing and enhancing where possible local character and the natural environment will overall have a positive impact upon all the residents of Huntingdonshire now and is likely to lead to greater benefits in the long term.</p>
Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed
<p>None Identified.</p>