Wealden District Council

Interim Equalities Impact Assessment

Wealden Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)

January 2024

Wealden
District Council

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Introduction

This report details the results of the Equalities and Fairness Impact Assessment (EqFIA) of the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Document. The main purpose of this EqFIA is to assess whether the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Document affects different groups of people in different ways.

It considers the likely impact on these different groups and how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in relation to the development of the Draft Local Plan and the policies contained within it.

Legal Context

Public authorities are specifically required to undertake an EqFIA under The Equality Act 2010. The requirement to undertake this Assessment stems from the duty placed on public authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination in carrying out its functions and promote equality of opportunity.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The purpose of the Public Sector Equality Duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the Council's day-to-day business. This means giving appropriate weight and priority to the need to:

1. Remove or minimise disadvantages;
2. Take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and
3. Encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life.

The Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that a policy, practice or procedure is providing equality of opportunity and eliminating unlawful discrimination for everyone. It covers services, policies and strategies and is a way of considering how it might impact differently on different groups of people in different ways & protected in law. We use EqFIAs to identify and remove barriers in services which might stop people knowing about the service, using it, and getting the best from it. EqFIAs also help us to open services up to new groups and make services accessible. They also help us get services right first time, saving money and time. An EqFIA can also be used to assess the extent to which positive outcomes and improved relations with equality groups arise from a policy or service.

The following questions are set out through the Council's Assessment Tool with specific references set out as to the interim view on any potential impact on equalities groups as a result of the proposed draft policies set out in the Plan.

Please note, this is the draft EqFIA presented for the purposes of supporting the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation Consultation Document which is being presented at Local Plan Sub-Committee on 29 January 2024. It is subject to further review by the Council's Internal Equalities Group which will be fed into the final version for this stage of Plan-Making.

Question 1

What is your proposal and what will change as a result? Please give an overview of your proposals. What decisions are you seeking?

This EqFIA is assessing the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Plan prior to approval by Full Council and subsequent publication for the Regulation 18 public consultation on the Draft. The new Local Plan will be the key planning document for Wealden District, excluding the area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority. The South Downs National Park has planning powers for its own area.

The Wealden Local Plan looks ahead to 2040; it will provide a vision for the district, a long-term spatial strategy for growth, including the locations where development will take place. It will provide a range of both strategic and non-strategic policies that will guide development across the district contributing to social, environmental and economic (sustainability) goals. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form part of the Development Plan for the district, replacing all existing local plan policies and will be used to assess and make decisions on planning applications, as well as to inform investment and the provision of infrastructure.

Overall, this Plan seeks to meet the district's needs and priorities, whilst protecting our natural and physical environments. It seeks to ensure that future growth is delivered alongside infrastructure needs and improvements, as well as deliver on climate change objectives. It also seeks to ensure that our communities are supported with the services and facilities that they need to support daily life.

As part of the plan-making process, we are required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A SA evaluates the social, economic and environmental impacts of the local plan and its policies. It is an iterative process and is integral to plan-making, ensuring that the Local Plan and its policies contributes to sustainability. In addition to the SA that we have published alongside the plan, we have also published an Interim Habitats Regulations Assessment alongside our Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 requires an assessment to be made of the potential effects of a local plan on the integrity of European sites. The HRA process considers whether the emerging local plan will adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

As part of the plan-making process, we need to undertake an Equalities & Fairness Impact Assessment (EqFIA). The EqFIA is a way to help identify the likely or actual effects of policies upon all people and sectors of the community. The aim of the assessment is to ensure that any negative consequences for those people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 are eliminated or minimised, and opportunities for promoting equality are maximised.

The NPPF requires planning policies and decisions to “enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs”. In essence, national policy requires a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Local Plan to be undertaken to ascertain whether planning policies prevent ill health, promote good health and/or healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. We have chosen to integrate the HIA of the local plan into our SA.

Given the breadth of the Draft Wealden Local Plan Regulation 18 document and the number of policies it contains, short summaries will be provided of the relevant policies which are considered to have a positive or negative impact on each characterisitic as relevant. Policies which are considered to have an overall neutral impact on each characteristic will not be covered in this assessment. This EqFIA will be updated prior to the Regulation 19 consultation in order to inform that iteration of the Local Plan journey.

Question 2

What will be the impact?

Consider who the policy/ decision is intending to benefit and what the expected outcomes are.

Assess each characteristic and indicate what impact you anticipate for each group.

Age - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

Policy SS1 (Spatial Strategy for Wealden) encourages sustainable and high quality development that meets the needs of our communities for homes and jobs. IT seeks to focus development in settlements with defined boundaries and seeks to protect and enhance district, service and local centres. This policy will benefit less mobile groups such as older and disabled people as it will increase accessibility to services.

Policy SS2 (Provision of new Homes) sets out that new housing will be located in the most sustainable settlements This policy will benefit less mobile groups such as older people and disabled people as it will increase accessibility to services.

Policy SS4 (Retail and Town Centres) supports development within district, service and local centres making them the focus for a wide range of services and facilities. Increasing or maintaining provision in these locations will benefit less mobile groups such as disabled and older people.

Policy SS7 (Ensuring Comprehensive Development and Housing Delivery), the effects of this policy on the protected characteristics will depend on the nature of the land uses involved in any given proposal. However, by ensuring comprehensive proposals that require the delivery of the various elements of a scheme, which could include affordable housing, sustainable transport, green space/ open space and other infrastructure, the policy should benefit a number of protected characteristics.

Policy SS8 (Responding to Climate Change) ensures that all future development in the District will be excepted to protect people and nature to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate or adapt to climate change. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it will ensure reduction in carbon emissions District wide. However it is considered that it is older and disabled people who will benefit the most as evidence shows that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

Policy SS9 (Health, Well-being and Quality Of Life) aims to create an environment, which supports high quality, well designed, safe, and accessible communities. It also covers the circumstances whereby a Health Impact Assessments will be required to be submitted alongside planning applications. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect many equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide.

Policy CC7 (Managing Flood Risk) requires all development proposals to consider and, where necessary, address the effect of the proposed

development on flood risk, both on-site and offsite. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it will ensure reduced flood risk and improved drainage system for all District wide. However it is considered that it is older and disabled people who will benefit the most as evidence shows that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

Policy CC8 (Sustainable Drainage) requires all development proposals should include adequate drainage provision and seek to reduce flood risk and contribute to flood alleviation. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner. However it is considered that it is older and disabled people who will benefit the most as evidence shows that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

Policy HO1 (Housing Type and Mix) sets out that new housing development in the District be of various type and mix. The policy is written positively and there is no negative discrimination of any of the protected characteristics. Policy HO1 is expected have a positive impact on age and disability characteristics. This is

because it encourages the delivery of a mix of market and affordable housing District-wide.

Policy HO4 (Small and Medium Sized Housing Sites) sets out the principles to be followed on small and medium sized housing sites (under one hectare) where they provide a mix of smaller homes of 1-, 2- and 3-bedrooms; self-build and custom build homes; affordable housing; and specialist accommodation. The policy is written positively and there is no negative discrimination of any of the protected characteristics. The policy is expected have a positive impact on age and disability characteristics as it encourages the delivery of a mix of market and affordable housing as well as specialist accommodation District-wide.

Policy HO5 (Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding) sets out the principles for bringing forward self-build and custom build housing in the district. It cross refers to the need for a mix of housing on such sites in line with Policy HO1 and particular support for self-build schemes which provide affordable housing and particularly smaller units. The policy is written positively and there is no negative discrimination of any of the protected characteristics. The policy is expected have a positive impact on age and disability characteristics as it encourages the delivery of a mix of market and affordable housing as well as smaller sized units District-wide.

Policy HO7 (Rural Exception Sites to Meet Local Housing Need) sets out support for Rural Exception Sites within the District, seeking to provide affordable housing in lower order settlements where there is an identified need. Sites would provide affordable dwellings of a size, type, tenure, mix and price reflecting evidenced local needs. The policy is expected have a positive impact on age and disability characteristics as it encourages the delivery of affordable housing as well as, potentially, specialist accommodation.

Policy HO8 (Affordable Housing) provides a framework to secure affordable housing for those on lower incomes who cannot secure housing through the open market. There may also be a positive effect on older and disabled people as these groups tend to have a higher housing need.

Policy HO11 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People) sets out principles in favour of well-designed specialist housing that address the needs of older people, those with disabilities, those at risk of homelessness, young people who may have a support need or those fleeing domestic abuse amongst others who may require properties that are specifically designed. Types of supported housing can include hostels, refuges, supported living complexes, extra care schemes and sheltered housing. The policy is written positively and there is no negative discrimination of any of the protected characteristics. Policy HO11 is expected to have a positive impact on the age and disability characteristics.

Policy HO12 (Residential Accessibility Standards) ensures that new homes are accessible and suitable for adaptation throughout their lifetime will particularly benefit the older people or those with disabilities.

Policy IF1 (Infrastructure Provision, delivery and funding) seeks to ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all necessary infrastructure requirements arising from proposals. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect a number of equalities groups in a positive manner including age, disability, maternity and pregnancy, residency and geographical area, as it will ensure appropriate District wide provision of infrastructure to support development.

Policy INF2 (Active Travel and Sustainable Development) seeks an integrated and improved transport network for all users, whilst seeking to reduce car journeys, by encouraging and enabling active, inclusive, accessible and sustainable travel. It also sets out the active travel and sustainable development measures by which new development would be supported. The Policy further seeks to ensure that all development in the District is supported by appropriate on-site and off-site transport infrastructure. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it will ensure appropriate District wide provision of sustainable transport networks for all.

Policy INF3 (Parking Provision) requires vehicular and cycle parking to be provided in line with ESCC Guidance and that it should deliver an appropriate level of cycle (including E-bikes), car, disabled, and visitor parking including electric vehicle active and passive provision. This policy impact positively towards older and disabled people and therefore the policy benefits these groups.

Policy INF6 (Digital and Communication Infrastructure) ensure that applicants actively demonstrate that they have considered broadband and mobile connectivity within their proposals for new housing, employment and retail developments and are expected to meet or exceed the Government's Building Regulations relating to the provision of FTTP. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it will ensure equal access to quality digital infrastructure District-wide.

Policy INF7 (Local Services and Community Facilities) sets out that the provision of new or improved local services and community facilities will be supported. It sets out the approach to how approach to the circumstances by which planning applications for new local services and community facilities will be supported which would include places of worship. It also covers how any loss of such services should be justified in policy terms. The provision of new and Improved community facilities and services will benefit all equalities groups, however they are likely to have particular benefits to certain groups. Facilities such as schools and community centres will benefit disabled, older and younger people, particularly where they are in sustainable locations. This policy also covers places of worship.

Policy INF8 (Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities) sets out to increase the availability and accessibility of high quality and high value open space, sports and recreation provision in the district by improving and enhancing existing provision. It also sets out the principles that will support new open space in the District. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive

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Policy DE1 (Achieving Well-Designed and High Quality Places) sets the parameters for which design quality in new development. it sets out the need to deliver compact forms of development that prioritise safe and sustainable travel choices including delivering inclusive walkable neighbourhoods providing good and safe accessibility for all (including those with disabilities and people with particular access needs, such as the older people or people with pushchairs). Good legibility of development schemes can provide good access through developments which may have a positive impact on those with a disability, older people or people with pushchairs.

Policy DE3 (Spaces for People, Nature and the Public Realm) sets out that public spaces and the public realm must be considered as an integral part of design. Public spaces should be available for use by all members of society and designed in a way to promote nature, health and well-being. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide but these effects can have a particularly positive impact on those with a disability, older people or people with pushchairs.

Policy TC1 (District, Service and Local Centre Hierarchy and 'Town Centre' First Principles) ensures that by focusing main town centres uses in existing centres where key services are already located and accessible by public transport will benefit older and disabled people.

Policy TC3 (Primary Shopping Areas) ensures that retail uses will be encouraged in these areas in order that they maintain their role as shopping destinations to meeting the shopping needs to the community. By focusing main town centres uses in existing centres where key services are already located and accessible by public transport will benefit older and disabled people.

Disability - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

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Policy DE3 (Spaces for People, Nature and the Public Realm) sets out that public spaces and the public realm must be considered as an integral part of design. Public spaces should be available for use by all members of society and designed in a way to promote nature, health and well-being. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect all equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide but these effects can have a particularly positive impact on those with a disability, older people or people with pushchairs.

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Gender reassignment - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact *

The Local Plan is a land use plan so no relevant policies to this group.

Marriage and civil partnership - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The Local Plan is a land use plan so no relevant policies to this group.

Maternity and pregnancy - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

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Race - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The plan includes policies on provision of pitches for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites as well as a criteria based on policy relating to the criteria under which planning applications for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople sites will be assessed against. These Policies are SS3, HO9 and HO10.

Policy SS3 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople - Accommodation Needs) sets out that provision will be made in the Plan for 51 pitches

for Gypsies and Travellers and 3 plots for Travelling Showpeople to meet identified needs. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Policy SS9 (Health, Well-being and Quality Of Life) aims to create an environment, which supports high quality, well designed, safe, and accessible communities. It also covers the circumstances whereby a Health Impact Assessments will be required to be submitted alongside planning applications. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect many equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide.

Policy HO9 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople – Site Criteria) sets out the criteria that will be taken into account when determining planning applications for new or extended permanent and temporary sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Policy HO10 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople – Safeguarding Sites) sets out that existing provision of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites within the district will be safeguarded and how proposals for loss of such sites would be considered through the planning application process. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy ensures that sites that are genuinely needed as provision for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople do not get lost to other uses. It therefore addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Religion or beliefs - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The Local Plan contains policies regarding community uses which include places of worship.

Policy INF8 (Local Services and Community Facilities) sets out that the provision of new or improved local services and community facilities will be supported. It sets out

the approach to how approach to the circumstances by which planning applications for new local services and community facilities will be supported which would include places of worship. It also covers how any loss of such services should be justified in policy terms. The provision of new and Improved community facilities and services will benefit all equalities groups, however they are likely to have particular benefits to certain groups. Facilities such as schools and community centres will benefit disabled, older and younger people, particularly where they are in sustainable locations. This policy also covers places of worship.

Sex - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact *

Ensuring new development is designed for the needs of all genders including elements such as designing places where people feel safe and where people can access necessary services and facilities. This is facilitated by Policy DE1 (Achieving Well-Designed and High Quality Places) which sets the parameters for which design quality in new development. It sets out the need to deliver compact forms of development that prioritise safe and sustainable travel choices including delivering inclusive walkable neighbourhoods providing good and safe accessibility for all (including those with disabilities and people with particular access needs, such as the older people or people with pushchairs and women).

Policy SS9 (Health, Well-being and Quality Of Life) aims to create an environment, which supports high quality, well designed, safe, and accessible communities. It also covers the circumstances whereby a Health Impact Assessments will be required to be submitted alongside planning applications. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect many equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide.

Sexual orientation - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

It is considered the impact on this group is neutral. However, fear of violence against this group may be mitigated by ‘designing-out crime’ measures but these will benefit all individuals.

Caring responsibilities - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The plan addresses supported independent living for older and vulnerable people which will impact on carers.

Policy SS9 (Health, Well-being and Quality Of Life) aims to create an environment, which supports high quality, well designed, safe, and accessible communities. It also covers the circumstances whereby a Health Impact Assessments will be required to be submitted alongside planning applications. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect many equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide.

Policy HO8 (Affordable Housing) provides a framework to secure affordable housing for those on lower incomes who cannot secure housing through the open market. There may also be a positive effect on older and disabled people as these groups tend to have a higher housing need.

Policy HO11 (Specialist Housing for Older and Vulnerable People) sets out principles in favour of well-designed specialist housing that address the needs of older people, those with disabilities, those at risk of homelessness, young people who may have a support need or those fleeing domestic abuse amongst others who may require properties that are specifically designed. Types of supported housing can include hostels, refuges, supported living complexes, extra care schemes and sheltered housing. The policy is written positively and there is no negative discrimination of any of the protected characteristics. Policy HO11 is expected to have a positive impact on the age and disability characteristics.

Policy HO12 (Residential Accessibility Standards) ensures that new homes are accessible and suitable for adaptation throughout their lifetime will particularly benefit the older people or those with disabilities.

Policy IF1 (Infrastructure Provision, delivery and funding) seeks to ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all necessary infrastructure requirements arising from proposals. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect a number of equalities groups in a positive manner including age, disability, maternity and pregnancy, residency and geographical area, as it will ensure appropriate District wide provision of infrastructure to support development.

Policy INF3 (Parking Provision) requires vehicular and cycle parking to be provided in line with ESCC Guidance and that it should deliver an appropriate level of cycle (including E-bikes), car, disabled, and visitor parking including electric vehicle active and passive provision. This policy impact positively towards older and disabled people and therefore the policy benefits these groups.

Language - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The Local Plan is a land use plan so no relevant policies to this group.

Residency - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

The plan includes policies on provision of pitches for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites as well as a criteria based on policy relating to the criteria under which planning applications for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople sites will be assessed against. These Policies are SS3, HO9 and HO10.

Policy SS3 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople - Accommodation Needs) sets out that provision will be made in the Plan for 51 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 3 plots for Travelling Showpeople to meet identified needs. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Policy SS9 (Health, Well-being and Quality Of Life) aims to create an environment, which supports high quality, well designed, safe, and accessible communities. It also covers the circumstances whereby a Health Impact Assessments will be required to be submitted alongside planning applications. The policy is written positively and is expected to affect many equalities groups in a positive manner, as it encourages health, well-being and quality of life District wide.

Policy HO9 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople – Site Criteria) sets out the criteria that will be taken into account when determining planning applications for new or extended permanent and temporary sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Policy HO10 (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople – Safeguarding Sites) sets out that existing provision of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites within the district will be safeguarded and how proposals for loss of such sites would be considered through the planning application process. This policy expected to have a positive impact on the race characteristic, as the policy ensures that sites that are genuinely needed as provision for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

do not get lost to other uses. It therefore addresses the needs of a specific race/ group of individuals/minority group.

Employment status - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

Policy SS1 (Spatial Strategy for Wealden) encourages sustainable and high quality development that meets the needs of our communities for homes and jobs. It seeks to focus development in settlements with defined boundaries and seeks to protect and enhance district, service and local centres. This policy will benefit less mobile groups such as older and disabled people as it will increase accessibility to services. It also benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide employment space in defined areas and seeks to protect and enhance district, service and local centres which are also areas of employment focus.

Policy SS4 (Retail and Town Centres) supports development within district, service and local centres making them the focus for a wide range of services and facilities. Increasing or maintaining provision in these locations will benefit less mobile groups such as disabled and older people. It also benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks protect and enhance district, service and local centres which are also areas of employment focus.

Policy SS5 (Provision of Employment Floorspace) sets out that the Local Plan will support the provision of 84,850sqm of employment floorspace over the plan period. It sets out how this will be achieved, whilst cross referencing to other policies in the Plan. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide and retain employment space in the district.

Policy SS6 (Strategic Employment Allocations) allocates sites for employment purposes in the District. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide retain employment space in the district.

Policy HO14 (Rural Workers Accommodation) sets out the circumstances where rural workers accommodation will be supported to support the land based rural enterprise. This will have a positive impact on the employment status group helping to support land based workers to live close to where they work.

Policy EC1 (Sustainable Economic Prosperity and Investment) sets out support for economic development proposals, growth in high-skilled jobs,

and tourism that contributes towards the delivery of economic prosperity in the district and then further sets out how this will be achieved. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide retain employment space in the district.

Policy EC2 (Existing Strategic Employment Sites) sets out that existing strategic employment sites, premises and floorspace will be safeguarded

against loss to other non-employment uses. It also defines specifically which strategic employment sites are protected and maps their boundaries. In addition, it sets out the position in terms of intensification and redevelopment of existing sites, as well as trade counters. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide retain employment space, and, if appropriate, the circumstances by which intensification and redevelopment of existing sites in the district will be considered.

Policy EC3 (Retention and / or Loss of Non-Strategic Employment Sites, Premises or Floorspace) sets out the circumstances by which the loss of employment sites to other uses will be considered to ensure that only genuinely redundant units/sites are lost. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide retain employment space in the district.

Policy EC4 (Rural Economy) is a provides a criteria-based policy that supports the growth of our rural economy whilst also ensuring that development is appropriate in relation to its location, scale and design. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide appropriate rural employment space in the district.

EC6 (Tourism Facilities and Attractions) is a criteria based policy for considering applications for both new tourism facilities and attractions, as well as improvements to existing facilities and attractions. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide appropriate tourism facilities and attractions in the district.

Policy EC8 (The Retention of Sites in Economic or Tourism Use and Community Facilities) sets out the with specific requirements for proposals that involve the loss or deterioration of a site/premises that is a commercial community facility, or is in a tourism or economic use, including those sites that were last in such a (lawful) use. This Policy benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to provide retain Economic or Tourism Use and Community Facilities in the district.

Policy TC1 (District, Service and Local Centre Hierarchy and 'Town Centre' First Principles) ensures that by focusing main town centres uses in existing centres where key services are already located and accessible by public transport will benefit older and disabled people. It also benefits the employment status group as the policy seeks to focus main town centres uses in district, service and local centres which are also areas of employment focus.

Policy TC3 (Primary Shopping Areas) ensures that retail uses will be encouraged in these areas in order that they maintain their role as shopping destinations to meeting the shopping needs to the community. By focusing main town centres uses in existing centres where key services are already located and accessible by public transport will benefit older and disabled people. It also benefits the employment

status group as the policy seeks to focus main town centres uses in district, service and local centres which are also areas of employment focus.

Geographical area - What will be the impact? *

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Please explain why you believe this will be the impact. *

All policies relate to the geographical area of Wealden and area applied district wide, except where they relate to a specific geography as defined on the Policies Map. Examples include site specific allocations where they relate to a specific area or spatially specific policies such as district, service and local centres.

Question 3

Which parts of the Public Sector Equality Duty are most relevant to the policy?

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation *

Yes

No

Why? *

Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation have no direct relevance to the Local Plan itself.

2. Advance equality of opportunity *

Yes

No

Why? *

Advancing equality of opportunity has no direct relevance has no direct relevance to the Local Plan itself.

3. Foster good relations *

Yes

No

Why? *

Fostering good relations has no direct relevance to the Local Plan itself.

Question 4(a)

What mitigations have you identified for each negatively impacted group in question 2?

No negative impacts were identified, so no mitigations are necessary.

If you cannot identify any, please explain e.g. a replacement service does not exist/ there is no resource. (There is a space for action planning at the end of this document)

Not applicable

Question 4(b)

If you believe there are any additional groups who may be positively or negatively impacted, please record this here.

We do not believe there are any additional groups who may be positively or negatively impacted by the Local Plan.

Outline what you anticipate the impacts to be for these groups and any mitigations you have identified.

Not applicable

Question 5

What information have you used to assess the above anticipated impacts on different groups?

The Draft Local Plan is based on a wide range of information sourced from within and outside the Council. This includes work from consultants on a wide range of topics supporting the development of the policies contained within it. Consideration has been made to effects of the policies on the particular groups highlighted in order to support the findings of this interim EqFIA. Further work will be undertaken between Regulation 18 and 19 consultations to further consider the impacts of policies and develop a bespoke policy by policy approach to consideration of the impacts in order to comprehensively determine any impacts.

Have you conducted any consultation or carried out any research?

Use this space to explain any data (internal and external), academic research, theories, models you have taken into account.

Consultation will be undertaken as part of the Regulation 18 process and any relevant findings can be fed into the next iteration of this EqFIA.

Question 6

Was there any information you needed but were not able to find?

No, However, further work will be undertaken between Regulation 18 and 19 consultations to further consider the impacts of policies and develop a bespoke policy by policy approach to consider the impacts in order to comprehensively determine any impacts.

What might be done to remedy this?

n/a

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