



**NEWARK &
SHERWOOD**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework

**Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning
Document (SPD)**

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING
REPORT**

December 2013

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The District Council has produced a Draft Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to supplement some of the policies within the Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 Legislation relating to equality and diversity has been in existence for many years. Recently much of the existing equality legislation was brought together and strengthened under the Equality Act 2010. This places a number of responsibilities and requirements on the District Council.
- 1.3 The District Council has a General 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
- 1.4 The purpose of the General Equality Duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the Council's day-to-day business. It entails giving appropriate weight and priority to the need to:
- Remove or minimise disadvantages;
 - Take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and
 - Encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life
- 1.5 The District Council have screened the equalities implications of the Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD. As a result of this work it does not believe that a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is likely to be required for the document and the reasons for reaching this opinion are set out elsewhere within this report.

2. Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD

- 2.1 The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a District- level assessment of landscape character which forms part of the wider assessment for the County. Its preparation has followed the County-level methodology and the document provides an explanation of the differences between landscapes that is based around a sense of place, local distinctiveness, characteristic wildlife, and natural features. In identifying specific Landscape Policy Zones (LPZs) and related actions the LCA will play an important role in the planning framework and in decisions over new development.
- 2.2 Reflecting this importance the LCA has been a key part of the evidence base informing the production of the Core Strategy (CS) and the Allocations & Development Management (A&DM) Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The Assessment has been a significant factor in the making of decisions on site allocations within the A&DM DPD.

- 2.3 Core Policy 13 (Landscape Character) of the Core Strategy sets out that the Local Development Framework (LDF) will introduce a comprehensive landscape assessment of Newark and Sherwood which will identify the landscape character condition and sensitivity of each Landscape Policy Zone. The policy also sets out the expectation that development proposals will positively address the implications of the LPZs and demonstrate that the aims and objectives for that area would be contributed to.
- 2.4 The LCA offers an objective methodology for assessing the varied landscape within Newark and Sherwood and gives a greater understanding of what makes the landscape within the District locally distinctive. This is reflected through the identification of Policy Zones across the 5 Landscape Character Types represented within Newark and Sherwood. The Landscape Character Assessment provides the basis for the implementation of Core Policy 13 and as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) of the LDF will be capable of being a material consideration with within the planning process.

3.0 Equalities Impact Assessment Screening

- 3.1 As part of the EqIA process the Local Government Improvement & Development (LGID) recommends that initial screening needs to take place for all new revised policies, strategies, procedures and functions. This stage will determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment for this area of work. The remainder of this document forms the screening of the Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD.
- 3.2 As stated above the Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD seeks to expand on Core Policy 13 of the adopted Core Strategy. The Core Strategy DPD and the Allocations & Development Management DPD were appraised during their preparation, and the appraisal results were reported in Equality Impact Assessment Reports (EqIA). These were submitted to the Planning Inspector as part of each documents independent examination.
- 3.3 Full copies of the EqIA's for the Core Strategy DPD and the Allocations & Development Management DPD can be viewed at: <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/corestrategy/> and <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/adm/>
- 3.4 The EqIAs for these plans assessed all the policies contained within them, including the parent policy for this SPD, against the possible impacts on the following equality groups, as identified in the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment Proforma 2010 and those within the Equality Act:
- Age Equality;
 - Disability Equality;
 - Gender Equality;
 - Pregnancy & Maternity;
 - Race Equality;
 - Religion or Belief Equality;
 - Sexual Orientation Equality; and
 - Social Equality

3.5 The purpose of the EqlAs was to highlight the likely impact of the strategy and policies on the target groups and give due consideration to taking action to improve the policies where this was appropriate and achievable. The EqlA's for both DPDs contained the following information:

- Outline and assessment of the key equality groups which had been focused upon when considering the impacts of the policies within them;
- An initial assessment of the individual policies within the DPDs was undertaken to ascertain whether they were likely to have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups. The outcomes of this initial assessment were used to determine which policies need to be further explored;
- Discussion of the consultation process undertaken in preparing the DPD's highlighting the various organisations which were consulted and that represent the diversity of groups within the District; and
- Summary of the findings of the assessment and how the impact of the DPD's upon different equality groups could be monitored.

3.6 A summary of the appraisal results are set out in figure 1 on pages 4. It should be noted that there are numerous policies which include a specific reference to addressing the requirements of Core Policy 13. These are not included in the table below as it is considered that it would constitute too much repetition of the original EqlA, however the equalities assessments of these policies can be viewed in the respective documents utilising the links referred to in paragraph 3.3.

Figure 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment of Core Policy

The key below identifies the symbols used to summarise the impact on a group it is considered each policy will have.

Symbol	Likely Impact	Symbol	Likely Impact
+	Positive	-	Negative
0	Neutral/Negligible	N/A	Not Applicable

Policy	Equalities Group							Commentary
	Age	Race	Gender	Disability	Sexual Orientation	Religion /Belief	Social Inequality	
CP13 – Landscape Character The policy confirms that Landscape Character Zones (LCZ) will be categorised and that when allocating land the Council will need to demonstrate that the impact of the allocation has been addressed. Proposals for development will need to positively address the implications of LCZ's	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	It is not anticipated that this policy will impact on any specific group.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Draft Landscape Character SPD has been produced to expand on existing policies within the Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework; it does not seek to create new policy. As part of the production of the Core Strategy, Core Policy 13 on which the SPD is based has already been subject to an equalities assessment.
- 4.2 Through categorising the landscape into Landscape Character Zones (LCZ), guiding the allocation of land and requiring development proposals to positively address the implications of the LCZs it is not anticipated that Core Policy 13 will impact on any specific group.
- 4.3 On the basis of the above it is concluded that a separate full EqIA of the Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD is not required.