



Equalities Impact Assessment

New Forest National Park Submission draft Local Plan 2016 - 2036

New Forest National Park Authority is currently working on the production of a new Local Plan (formerly referred to as the Core Strategy adopted December 2010). The new Local Plan will set out policies to guide development in the New Forest up to 2036.

This assessment presents the findings of an assessment of the likely effects of the Submission version of the Local Plan on equality impact issues.

The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment of plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010. The Act was subsequently abolished in 2012 as part of Government bid to reduce bureaucracy. Despite this however, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions. In fulfilling this duty, many authorities still find it useful to produce a written record of equalities issues having been carefully considered. This is the purpose of this form.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. They are – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; gender; and sexual orientation.

The Submission Local Plan has been reviewed to consider the likely impacts of the policies on each of the nine protected characteristics in terms of their likely effects (positive, neutral or negative). The findings are set out in the table below.

The assessment must consider the nine protected characteristics as set out above	<u>Comment</u>
Why is the policy, procedure or strategy required?	To provide the overall vision, strategic aims and objectives and spatial planning policies for the whole of the administrative area of the New Forest National Park for the period to 2036.
How will it be implemented? Do you have documented procedures in place?	The Local Plan policies will be mainly implemented through the Authority's Development Management function, as well as working with other authorities and stakeholders to achieve the Strategy's objectives.
For which groups of people will there be an impact? Do men and women use the service in different ways / have different needs from the service?	The strategic and long-term nature of the Local Plan means it has the potential to have some impact on many who live in or visit the National Park.
How significant is it in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	The strategic and long-term nature of the Local Plan means it has the potential to have some impact on many who live in or visit the National Park.
Is the impact positive, negative or neutral?	The attached assessment specifically identifies the potential impact of each policy within the Local Plan. Whilst some Local Plan policies may have an impact on all members of the community, the assessment attempts to identify policies that may impact the particular groups being considered.
How will you disseminate your policy, procedure or strategy?	There have been significant levels of consultation about the approaches proposed in the Local Plan. The Submission Local Plan was made available in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copies of the document were made available for inspection at the Authority's main office in Lymington, as well as other locations. ▪ The document was available to view and download on the Authority's website, alongside a

	<p>statement of the representations procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statutory consultees received a copy of the Local Plan document and a statement of the representations procedure. ▪ Those who commented on the consultation draft National Park Local Plan received written notification that the Submission Local Plan had been published and where they could access it. Moreover, a press notice was placed in local newspapers stating that the submission document had been published, where it was available, and the duration of the consultation period.
Is your policy, procedure or strategy in Plain English and available in different formats?	Yes, it is in plain English, and is available in other formats upon request
Does your policy/procedure/strategy compliment or link to other policies or procedures? If so are these links made clear?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it is linked with the New Forest National Park Partnership Plan in particular, but also with other National Park strategies such as the Recreation Management Strategy.
What methods have you used to consult?	The nine protected characteristics of the Equalities Act were taken into consideration when preparing and consulting on the Plan, in particular ensuring that all groups of people have the opportunity to access and participate in consultations. Further details on the methods used to consult are set out in the Authority's Consultation Statement.
Outcomes / Monitoring of the impact assessment:	Comment
How will you measure the effect of your policy /procedure for end users?	<input type="checkbox"/> Through the Annual Monitoring Report, produced each December, the latest of which can be found at: http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/planning/pl-planpolicy/monitoring.htm
How would you know from your monitoring if anyone was disadvantaged?	<input type="checkbox"/> The Annual Monitoring Report includes the monitoring of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New additional gypsy and traveller pitches ○ Planning applications refused due to inadequate access provision for disabled people.
How is monitoring information fed back to end users?	The Annual Monitoring Report is published on the website after its production in December each year
When is your next review?	The Local Plan has yet to be adopted, so no review date has been set yet.

Assessment of New Forest National Park Local Plan Policies

Local Plan Policies	Policy's potential impact¹ on: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; gender; and sexual orientation (Positive; Negative; N = Neutral / no specific impact identified)
SP1 Supporting sustainable development	N
DP2 General Development Principles	Positive (age; disability; religion and belief) States that proposals will be permitted where they make appropriate provision for parking for disabled users, age related developments and places of worship (in accordance with Annex 2 of the Local Plan Car Parking and Cycling Standards)
SP3 Major Development in the National Park	N
SP4 Spatial Strategy	N
SP5 Nature Conservation Sites of International Importance	N
SP6 The Natural Environment	N
SP7 Landscape Character	N
DP8 Safeguarding and Improving Water Resources	N

¹ Where no data is available to inform the assessment, professional judgement has been used to assess the potential impact of the policy.

SP9 Green Infrastructure	N
DP10 Open Space	N
SP11 Climate Change	N
DP12 Flood Risk	N
DP13 Coastal Development	N
SP14 Renewable Energy	N
SP15 Tranquillity	N
SP16 The Historic and Built Environment	N
SP17 Local Distinctiveness	N
DP18 Design Principles	Positive (age; disability) Supports the building and design of new residential development which will provide more accessible homes that can benefit residents with disability and/or age related requirements.
SP19 New Residential Development in the National Park	N
SP20 Specialist Housing for Older People (Use Class C2)	Positive (age) Supports new housing development where it would address an identified need or requirement for specialist housing for older people.
SP21 The Size of New Dwellings	N
SP22 Land at Wharton's Lane, Ashurst	N
SP23 Land at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst	Positive (age) Supports new housing development where it would address and identified need or requirement for specialist housing for older people.
SP24 Land south of Church Lane, Sway	N
SP25 Land adjacent to the former Fawley Power Station	N

SP26 Land at Calshot Village	N
SP27 Affordable Housing provision within the Defined Villages and on Allocated Sites	N
SP28 Rural Exception Sites	N
SP29 New Forest Commoners' Dwellings	N
SP30 New Forest Estate Workers' Dwellings	N
DP31 Agricultural and Forestry Workers' Dwellings	N
DP32 Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Conditions	N
SP33 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Positive (race) Provides for the housing needs of gypsies, travellers in appropriate locations.
DP34 Residential Character of the Defined Villages	N
DP35 Replacement Dwellings	Positive (age; disability) Allows for a larger replacement of a dwelling in exceptional circumstances to accommodate genuine family need.
DP36 Extensions to Dwellings	Positive (age; disability) Allows for a larger replacement of a dwelling in exceptional circumstances to accommodate genuine family need.
DP37 Outbuildings	N
DP38 Infrastructure Provision and Developer Contributions	N
SP39 Local Community Facilities	Positive (religion or belief; pregnancy and maternity) Supports the retention of local community facilities in the National park which provide an essential service which could include places of worship or community halls that can be used for meetings and classes

	thereby providing support for parents.
DP40 Change of Use from retail in the Defined Villages	N
DP41 Retail Development outside the Defined Villages	N
SP42 Business and Employment Development	Positive (age; disability; gender) Supports home working which may be beneficial to those with poor mobility or other disabilities, or those who may need to work flexibly whilst caring for adult dependents or children.
SP43 Existing Employment Sites	N
DP44 Redevelopment of Existing Employment Sites	N
DP45 Extensions to Non Residential Buildings and Uses	N
SP46 Sustainable Tourism Development	N
DP47 Extensions to Holiday Parks and Camp Sites	N
SP48 The Land-based Economy	N
DP49 Re-use of Buildings outside the Defined Villages	N
DP50 Agricultural and Forestry Buildings	N
DP51 Recreational Horse Keeping	N
DP52 Field Shelters and Stables	N
DP53 Maneges	N
SP54 Transport Infrastructure	N
SP55 Access	Positive (disability) Promotes improvements to make existing paths, tracks and roads safer and more user friendly which may be beneficial to those with poor mobility.