

Equality Analysis

Title of activity: The adoption of the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.
Summary of activity: The activity involves the adoption of a document to support Policy AD28 (Provision of Open Space and Built Facilities in Association with New Development) in the Allocations and Designations Local Plan. The document is needed in order to provide more detail on how the policy will be applied. It will operate as a tool for development management in assessing applications and act as a guide for applicants so that they know what facilities or monetary contributions they will be expected to provide relating to open space in developments.
Lead officer: Sonia Gallaher - Senior Planner, Planning Policy
Equality analysis team: Sonia Gallaher - Senior Planner Planning Policy Gill Cowie -Team Leader Planning Policy Stuart O'Dell - Disability Equality and Access Officer

Relevance
An equality analysis of this activity is required.

Level 1 Equality Analysis

Scope of equality analysis
Impacted by activity: Everyone, especially developers, landowners and potential users. Impact on disabled children and parents/carers with children.
Protected equality groups: All groups protected by the Equality Act 2010.
General Equality Duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not • Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who do not

Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations and Designations Plan Draft plan, Plan for submission and adopted Allocations and Designations Local Plan • Census 2011 information • Office of National Statistics
What does this evidence tell you about the different protected groups? Provide a summary of the evidence by age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual

orientation.

Age

From the 2011 Census, the total population of Bedford Borough is 157,479. The mean age in Bedford is 39 years of age.

The proportion of the population broken down into age groups is as follows:

0-4 years of age - 10,099

5-15 years - 21,509

16-64 years of age - 101,003 with the highest proportion of the age cohort being the 30-44 age bracket of 32,838 residents

65 years and over - 24,868

Disability

Results from the 2011 Census showed that 7.1% of residents have a disability that limits day to day activities a lot, and 8.9% have a disability that limits their activities a little. Therefore 84% of residents do not have a disability.

Gender reassignment

The council currently does not have any information on gender reassignment and there was no question asked in the 2011 Census. It is proposed in the equality monitoring form that the question is included.

Pregnancy and maternity

In 2011, there were 2,088 live births which included 1,066 males and 1,022 females.

Looking at a comparison, between 2001 and 2007, the number of births gradually increased however there was a significant rise from 2008 to 2010 with an average of approximately 2100 births per year. In 2011, the number of births has slightly decreased.

Race

The 2011 Census revealed that 80.6% of the usual residents are White, 11.4% are Asian/Asian British and 3.5% are of mixed/multiple ethnic groups.

Religion or belief

A total of 59.4% of residents identified as Christian in the 2011 Census. Those with no religion accounted for 24.7% of the respondents. A total of 5% of residents of the borough identified as Muslim.

Sex

At the 2011 Census, there were slightly more females (80,167) than males (77,312) resident in Bedford Borough.

Sexual orientation

The 2011 Census did not ask a question on sexual orientation.

The Office of National Statistics Integrated Household Survey April 2011 to March 2012 identified that 93.9% of adults identified as heterosexual.

Approximately 1.1% of the respondents identified as gay or lesbian, while 0.4% identified as bisexual.

The council does not have any information on this group, but a question will be included in the equality analysis section of the questionnaire for the consultation.
What further research or data do you need to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the activity? None
Have you thought about commissioning new data or research? No

Adverse affect on equality
Age No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Disability No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Gender reassignment No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Pregnancy and maternity No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Race No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Religion or belief No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Sex (gender) No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Sexual orientation No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Marriage & civil partnership (in relation to eliminating discrimination) No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD
Other identified groups (e.g. carers, different socio-economic, other groups experiencing barriers to access) No adverse affect resulting from the implementation of the SPD

Positive affect on equality
1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation The Open Space SPD will apply equally to all residents of the borough and

will have no other impact compared to other members of the public.
<p>2. Advance equality of opportunity</p> <p>The Open Space SPD will ensure that there is an equitable way of developers providing open space. For areas where there is a deficiency of equipped play areas, they will be required to be provided at a lower threshold, compared to areas where there is an existing play area.</p>
<p>3. Foster good relations (including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between different protected groups)</p> <p>The Open Space SPD will outline the mechanisms for providing open space which will be available for all members of the public to use.</p>
<p>4. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people</p> <p>The design principles of open space have included details to ensure that such facilities as equipped play areas are designed to cater for all abilities.</p>
<p>5. Take account of disabled people's disabilities</p> <p>The design principles of open space have included details to ensure that such facilities as equipped play areas are designed to cater for all abilities.</p>

Summary of analysis
The Open Space SPD will not produce any adverse impacts upon the groups with protected characteristics. Positive impacts include ensuring that equipped play areas are provided with equipment to cater for all abilities.

Monitoring and review
Once adopted, the policies in the Open Space SPD will be monitored through the Bedford Borough Monitoring Report. This is prepared by the Planning Policy Team.

Action plan

Issues	Actions	Target date	Lead	Resources required
Equality information, data and evidence	Monitor the document through the Bedford Monitoring Report	Annually	Gareth Draper, Research and Monitoring Officer (Planning Policy)	Planning Policy Team

Sign off
Name of Executive or Assistant Director:
Date:
Review date: