

**ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Draft Lower Falinge Area  
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

**February 2021**

## **ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a measure that public authorities often carry out prior to implementing a policy, with a view to ascertaining its potential impact on equality. Such assessments are not required by law, although are a way of facilitating and evidencing compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

This Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared as a supporting document for the College Bank and Lower Falinge Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD has been produced to support and guide appropriate development, change, investment and improvements in the future of the area over the next 10 to 15 years.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment and Target Groups**

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment is to ensure the proposed SPD for College Bank and Lower Falinge Area integrates the best outcome for those affected by spatial development and mitigates any negative impacts, in respect of the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age;
- Disability; (Disability Discrimination Act 2005, GLA Disability Equality Scheme 2005, Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001)
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race; (Race Relations Act 1976, Amendment 2000, Amendment Regulations 2003)
- Religion or belief;
- Sex; (Sex Discrimination Act 1975); and
- Sexual orientation.

This EqIA is an opportunity to consider whether a policy, strategy or approach, affects all groups in the same way or whether there are is a significant positive, negative or neutral impact on particular groups before a policy is formally introduced.

On the whole, EqIAs should make sure that equality is placed at the centre of policy development, highlighting the likely impact of the policy on the target groups and to take action to improve the policies where appropriate as a result or to demonstrate the potential benefits.

## Appendix 1 Equality Impact Proforma

<b>Department</b>	Strategic Planning	<b>Section</b> Economy	<b>Person responsible for the assessment</b>	Wayne Poole	
<b>Name of the Policy to be assessed</b>	Lower Falinge Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	22/1/21	<b>Is this a new or existing policy</b>	Expanding on Core Strategy policies C/2.
<b>1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy</b>	<p>The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to guide planning decisions relating to the Lower Falinge area. The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide a development strategy for the Lower Falinge area. It outlines potential development opportunities within the area including options for the scale and mix of future proposals on a number of different sites through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a better quality and mix of housing choice to meet the needs of the community now and in the future;</li> <li>• a safe neighbourhood where attractive, energy efficient homes combine with well-proportioned streets, open spaces and landscaping to create distinctive and sustainable high density design including new residential development along with the opportunity for some complimentary non-residential uses, such as community facilities;</li> <li>• an accessible neighbourhood with pedestrian and cycle friendly links and routes within and across the area and strong connections with the wider surrounding areas including Rochdale Town Centre;</li> <li>• high quality public and green spaces which enhance the existing outdoor environment and recreational activities for people of all ages; and</li> <li>• a neighbourhood which manages the public spaces and creates opportunities for social interaction and activities.</li> </ul>				
<b>2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain</b>	<p>The SPD supports the main objectives set out within the Masterplan prepared on behalf of Rochdale Borough wide Housing and includes a programme of significant consultation with the local community and local partners. It identified a range of interventions required to address the mix (type and tenure) and quality of homes available, physical appearance of the area including quality and design of the public spaces, better access and connectivity within the area and to the Town Centre and surround areas, and a safer and mixed neighbourhood offering a range of community and shopping facilities to facilitate wider regeneration and contribute positively to</p>				

	<p>housing market improvement</p> <p>Also, Rochdale Council undertook a study to review pedestrian accessibility between the Lower Falinge and College Bank area and Rochdale Town Centre, the Educational Quarter and Rochdale Infirmary to the North. The study identified a number of issues and opportunities relating to movement between the areas. It investigated potential solutions to improve pedestrian connections. Opportunities for intervention were established and presented as a number of projects ranging from improved signage, junctions improvements, pedestrianisation, and green routes to traffic management.</p> <p>Although this work and the masterplan did cover a wider area including College Bank it is important to note that this SPD now only considers the Lower Falinge area and some adjoining land to the east.</p>
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<p><b>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way</b></p>	<p>Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, Rochdale Council Officers.</p>		
<p><b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?</b></p>	<p>It seeks an efficient and effective land use policy which ensures that new development adds to and supports the regeneration of Lower Falinge. The area mainly comprises of residential buildings but does also include some pockets of other land use and buildings. Better quality information submitted with planning applications to assist the development control processes and the implementation of the Core Strategy policy.</p>		
<p><b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b></p>	<p>If funding or resources were withdrawn. Unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances. Complexity of topic.</p>		
<p><b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy</b></p>	<p>Rochdale Borough wide Housing, Rochdale Council, Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers.</p>	<p><b>7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?</b></p>	<p>Development Management. Strategic Planning.</p>

8. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on racial groups?	Y	N	The SPD objectives generally responds well with all racial groups in the defined area in respect of access to public open spaces, new and improved housing, community facilities, accessibility etc. All groups in this area will benefit from this and help achieve a high quality development.
9. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact due to gender?	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
10. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact due disability?	Y	N	This SPD seeks better design and integration of all developments to ensure a high quality environment for all users, a suitable mix of tenures, sizes and types developed in order to meet local needs over the long term and create a sustainable community. In addition, it seeks to improve and modernise the quality of some overall residential environment. Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
11. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation?	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
12. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on people due to their age?	Y	N	This SPD seeks better design and integration of all developments to ensure a high quality environment for all users, a suitable mix of tenures, sizes and types developed in order to meet local needs over the long term and create a sustainable community. In addition, it seeks to improve and modernise the quality of some overall residential environment. Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
13. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief?	Y	N	This SPD seeks appropriate levels of community facilities and services to support new development in order to serve the area as a whole. Where community facilities include places of worship.  Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
14. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on people due to them being in a marriage or civil partnership?	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
15. Are there concerns that the policy <b><i>could</i></b> have a differential impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity?	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

<b>16. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their gender reassignment?</b>	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.
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<b>17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy</b>	YES	NO			
<b>18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason</b>	YES	NO	<b>Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper</b>		
<b>19. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment</b>	YES	NO	<b>20. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA</b>		
			YES		NO

Signed (completing officer) Wayne Poole

Signed (Lead Officer) Paul Moore