

ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**Draft Rochdale Station
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 Rochdale Station 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 the Rochdale Station 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

Department	Strategic Planning	Section Economy	Person responsible for the assessment	Kirsty Nicholls	
Name of the Policy to be assessed	Rochdale Station Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Date of Assessment	8/2/21	Is this a new or existing policy	Expanding on Core Strategy policies C/2.
1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy	<p>The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to guide planning decisions relating to the Rochdale Station area. The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide a development strategy for the Rochdale Station area. It outlines potential development opportunities within the area, establishing the principles and parameters to guide future development for the next 10-15 years in the surrounding area. Specifically looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing new residential uses that provides for a mix of types and densities. • Creation of a Station square, with events space and public art • Plan for the phased relocation of vehicle movements away from the main northern entrance around Maclure Road • Create improved pick up/drop off facilities and bus access to the south along Miall Street • Improve North/South connectivity • Improve walking connections to the town centre, Deeplish and Canalside • Support existing and attract new businesses in the area to integrate Milkstone local centre and community into the Station Quarter • Increase the capacity of the Metrolink Park and Ride in order to reduce on-street parking by commuters. 				
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain	<p>The SPD supports the main objectives set out within the Masterplan prepared on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council and includes a programme of significant consultation with the local community and local partners. It identified a range of interventions required to improve the 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 residential offerings to</p>				

	facilitate wider regeneration and contribute positively to housing market option and improvement.
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3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way	Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, Rochdale Council Officers.		
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?	It seeks an efficient and effective land use policy which ensures that new development adds to and supports the regeneration of Rochdale Station area. The area mainly comprises of mainly commercial 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.		
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	If funding or resources were withdrawn. Unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances. Complexity of topic.		
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy	Rochdale Council, Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers.	7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?	Development Management. Strategic Planning.

8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> 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.
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9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> 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 <u>could</u> 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 <u>could</u> 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 <u>could</u> 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. It seeks to offer a wider variety of residential and commercial development. Therefore, it is anticipated that this SPD will have a positive benefit upon this group.
13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> 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 <u>could</u> 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 <u>could</u> 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.
16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their gender reassignment?	Y	N	It is not anticipated that this SPD is likely to have a negative impact upon this group.

17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy	YES	NO	
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18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason	YES	NO	Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper		
19. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment	YES	NO	20. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA	YES	NO

Signed (completing officer) Kirsty Nicholls

Signed (Lead Officer) Mark Robinson