

West Berkshire Council

Equity Impact Assessment

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Place Planning and Housing
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	<p><i>The Council is asked to consider the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 (LPR), the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Report and addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and to approve these for publication for an 8 week period of public consultation. This is a regulatory stage of the LPR process and requires Council resolution.</i></p>
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The proposals do not discriminate against any protected characteristic.</p> <p>The full environmental Impacts will be considered through the plans' Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment but has the potential to result in positive environmental impacts in some instances, arising from the policy requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for increased opportunities for improved health indicators arising from the proposed additional homes and amenities.</p>
Completed By	Paula Amorelli
Authorised By	

Date of Assessment	
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Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The West Berkshire Local Plan Review (LPR) is currently being independently examined by a Planning Inspector and hearing sessions were held between 8 May and 3 October 2024 to discuss a number of issues upon which the Inspector required clarification. Based on the outcomes of the hearing sessions and the additional work undertaken, at the request of the Inspector, the Council has now prepared a Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the LPR (Appendix D).</p> <p>Any proposed Main Modifications to the LPR require consultation in accordance with Section 20 (7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). If the Council approves the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications consultation will take place for an 8 week period from 6 December 2024 to 31 January 2025. Representations will be sought on the documents below as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the LPR • Updated Sustainability Appraisal; • Addendum to the Habitats Regulations Assessment; and • Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map.
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The Council is asked to consider the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 (LPR), the updated Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Report and addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and to approve these for publication for an 8 week period of public consultation. This is a regulatory stage of the LPR process and requires Council resolution.</p>

<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>The LPR is underpinned by a detailed and robust evidence base. The Examination hearing sessions were held between 8 May and 3 October 2024 to discuss a number of issues upon which the Inspector required clarification. The purpose of the discussions at the hearings was for the Inspector, the Council and participants to gain the fullest possible understanding of any Main Modifications that may be required to make the LPR sound and legally compliant.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The Council may choose not to follow the recommendations of the Inspector. This is likely to lead to further intervention from Government, production of the Local Plan Review would then be taken over, further eroding any influence on the plan making process and leading to additional costs.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policies within the LPR will have a positive impact on people of all ages. For example, it contains policies which seek to promote the provision of specialised housing for older people, as well as the provision of sustainable and alternative modes of transport which will improve accessibility for everyone, particularly older people who may rely on public transport. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		

Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Policies within the LPR will have a positive impact on those with disabilities as the LPR seeks to deliver well designed, accessible places for all.</p> <p>Development proposals will be required to promote, support and enhance positive mental and physical health and wellbeing and thus contribute to reducing health inequalities. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The LPR seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		

Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This group would not be affected.	N/A		
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The LPR sees to ensure new development contributes towards the delivery of additional community and healthcare facilities and services which will be of benefit to pregnant people and people with young children. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		

Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The LPR seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. Its policies also promote the provision of new housing, including affordable housing, along within boosting job opportunities. In addition, the LPR will safeguard and provide additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers which will be of benefit to this racial group. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The LPR seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		

Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The LPR seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The LPR seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.</p>	N/A		

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policies within the LPR will have a positive impact on rural communities as the LPR seeks to promote sustainable growth within the District's rural areas, as well as to strengthen and diversify the rural economy.	N/A		
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The LPR seeks to deliver well designed places that delivers the infrastructure required to support developments.			
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A			

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A			
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A			

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	N/A
Person Responsible for Review	N/A

Authorised By	N/A
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EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk