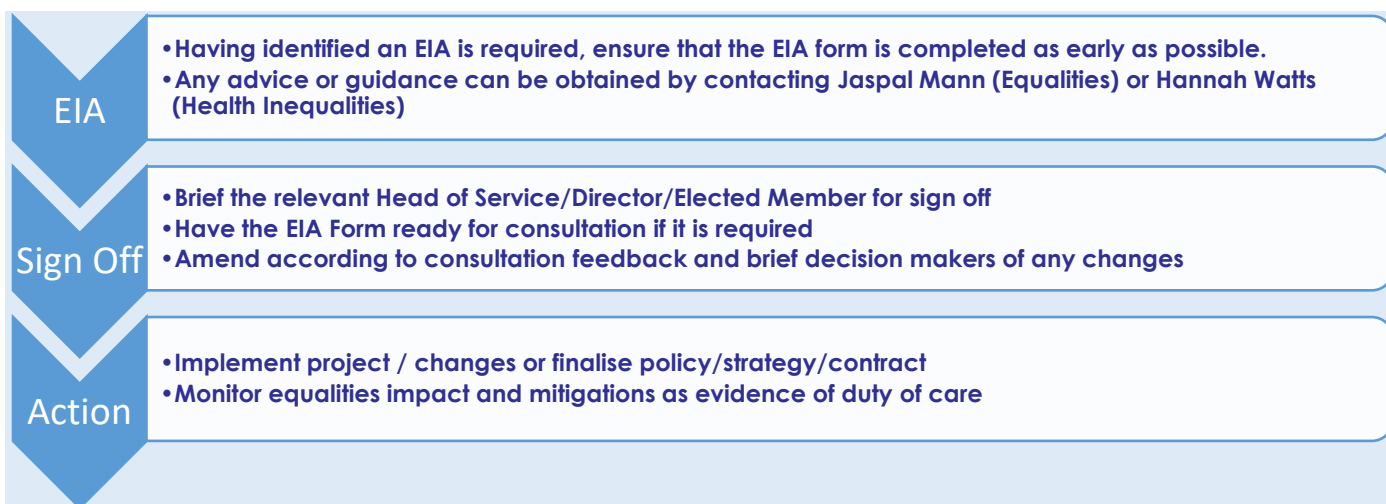


EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Title of EIA	EIA Open Space SPD	
EIA Author	Name	Clare Eggington
	Position	Principal Town Planner (Planning Policy)
	Date of completion	01/09/2021
Head of Service	Name	David Butler
	Position	Head of Planning Policy and Environment
Cabinet Member	Name	Councillor David Welsh
	Portfolio	Housing and Communities



PLEASE REFER TO [EIA GUIDANCE](#) FOR ADVICE ON COMPLETING THIS FORM

SECTION 1 – Context & Background

1.1 Please tick one of the following options:

This EIA is being carried out on:

- New policy / strategy
- New service
- Review of policy / strategy
- Review of service
- Commissioning
- Other project (please give details) *Supplementary Planning Document for Open Space*

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1.2 In summary, what is the background to this EIA?

The Open Space Planning Document (SPD) adds further details to the Local Plan which was adopted on 6th December 2017 and for which EIA was undertaken. SPDs do not introduce new policy, but provide further detail and guidance to enable the delivery of adopted policies.

The purpose of the Open Space SPD is to set out the Council's approach towards the provision of public open space in new residential development. It supplements Policy GE1 of the adopted Local Plan, which states that: "new development proposals should make provision for green infrastructure to ensure that such development is integrated into the landscape and contributes to improvements in connectivity and public access, biodiversity, landscape conservation, design, archaeology and recreation".

The additional guidance provided within the SPD aims to provide clear information for applicants about policy requirements: which developments will trigger a requirement for open space provision, how much open space should be provided, what kind of open space is needed, and clear expectations in terms of design and delivery.

1.3 Who are the main stakeholders involved? Who will be affected?

Developers who are required to deliver open spaces as part of their proposals, those who deliver and maintain the open space, and those members of the community who will use the open space.

1.4 Who will be responsible for implementing the findings of this EIA?

Coventry City Council Planning Policy Service

SECTION 2 – Consideration of Impact

Refer to guidance note for more detailed advice on completing this section.

In order to ensure that we do not discriminate in the way our activities are designed, developed and delivered, we must look at our duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between two persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

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2.1 Baseline data and information

Please include a summary of data analysis below, using both your own service level management information and also drawing comparisons with local data where necessary (go to <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/factsaboutcoventry>)

The Local Plan was formulated using detailed evidence including the Green Infrastructure Study and Green Space Strategy. The Local Plan was independently examined by a Planning Inspector to ensure that its policies were robust and formulated using appropriate evidence before it could be found sound and capable of adoption. Further detail on the Local Plan and the evidence base can be found here <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan>

This SPD details how the policy will be delivered, providing clear information for developers about policy requirements: which developments will trigger a requirement for open space provision, how much open space should be provided, what kind of open space is needed, and clear expectations in terms of design and delivery

2.2 On the basis of evidence, complete the table below to show what the potential impact is for each of the protected groups.

- Positive impact (P),
- Negative impact (N)
- Both positive and negative impacts (PN)
- No impact (NI)
- Insufficient data (ID)

**Any impact on the Council workforce should be included under question 2.6 – not below*

Protected Characteristic	Impact type P, N, PN, NI or ID	Nature of impact and any mitigations required
Age 0-18	P	Almost a fifth of Coventry City Council's residents are aged 0-15. Access to open space, including suitable play facilities, is a fundamental need for development, health and wellbeing. 22.5% of children live in low income families which is above the regional and national average (20.2% and 17% respectively) ¹ . Ensuring that developments provide appropriate, accessible and good quality play and recreation facilities is essential.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-201415-to-201819>

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Age 19-64	P	Access to a network of both formal and informal open space is an essential part of any sustainable community, encouraging exercise and social activity and sustainable travel such as walking and cycling. 67% of Coventry City Council's residents are aged between 16 and 64. Being of working age, these are the largest group likely to be accessing homes on new developments and will directly benefit from the provision of open space in relation to that development.
Age 65+	P	Access to a network of both formal and informal open space is an essential part of any sustainable community, encouraging exercise and social activity and sustainable travel such as walking and cycling. 13.5% of Coventry City Council's residents are aged 65 and over and will benefit from a range of good quality, accessible open spaces including those relating to new developments.
Disability	P	Access to a network of both formal and informal open space is an essential part of any sustainable community, encouraging exercise and social activity and sustainable travel such as walking and cycling. Open spaces can positively contribute to mental and physical wellbeing. 17.7% of Coventry City Council's residents have a limiting long term health problem or disability and appropriate open space provision may have a positive impact.
Gender reassignment	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Marriage and Civil Partnership	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Pregnancy and maternity	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Race (Including: colour, nationality, citizenship ethnic or national origins)	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Religion and belief	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Sex	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision
Sexual orientation	ID	No direct impact although individuals may still benefit from open space provision



HEALTH INEQUALITIES

<p>2.3</p>	<p>Health inequalities (HI) are unjust differences in health and wellbeing between different groups of people which arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and result in stark differences in how long we live and how many years we live in good health.</p> <p>Many issues can have an impact: income, unemployment, work conditions, education and skills, our living situation, individual characteristics and experiences, such as age, gender, disability and ethnicity</p> <p>A wide range of services can make a difference to reducing health inequalities. Whether you work with children and young people, design roads or infrastructure, support people into employment or deal with welfare benefits – policy decisions and strategies can help to reduce health inequalities</p> <p>Please answer the questions below to help identify if the area of work will have any impact on health inequalities, positive or negative.</p> <p>If you need assistance in completing this section please contact: Hannah Watts (hannah.watts@coventry.gov.uk) in Public Health for more information. More details and worked examples can be found at https://coventrycc.sharepoint.com/Info/Pages/What-is-an-Equality-Impact-Assessment-(EIA).aspx</p>
Question	Issues to consider
<p>2.3a What HIs exist in relation to your work / plan / strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore existing data sources on the distribution of health across different population groups (<i>examples of where to find data to be included in support materials</i>) ● Consider protected characteristics and different dimensions of HI such as socio-economic status or geographical deprivation
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The Open Space SPD supplements the policies of the adopted Local Plan which was subject to Health Impact Assessment. The Health and Wellbeing chapter of the plan, which includes Policy HW1, requires Health Impact Assessments for particular types and scale of development where there could be significant impacts. See https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan This was supplemented by a Health Impact Assessment SPD which provided further detail and guidance including that in relation to open space. See https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/28900/health_impact_assessment_spd</p>

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<p>2.3b How might your work affect HI (positively or negatively).</p> <p>How might your work address the needs of different groups that share protected characteristics</p>	<p>Consider and answer below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Think about whether outcomes vary across groups and who benefits the most and least, for example, the outcome for a woman on a low income may be different to the outcome for a woman a high income ● Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be 																											
<p>Response:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. Potential outcomes including impact based on socio-economic status or geographical deprivation</p> <p>The Health Impact Assessment SPD referred to above includes the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Category 3: Access to open space and nature</p> <p>Providing secure, convenient and attractive open/green space can lead to more physical activity and reduce levels of heart disease, strokes and other ill-health problems that are associated with both sedentary occupations and stressful lifestyles. There is growing evidence that access to parks and open spaces and nature can help to maintain or improve mental health.</p> <p>The patterns of physical activity established in childhood are perceived to be a key determinant of adult behaviour; a growing number of children are missing out on regular exercise, and an increasing number of children are being diagnosed as overweight and obese. Access to play spaces, community or sport facilities such as sport pitches can encourage physical activity. There is a strong correlation between the quality of open space and the frequency of use for physical activity, social interaction or relaxation.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Considerations</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Negative effects</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Positive Effects</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3" style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities for physical activity ● Access to open and natural space, including water fronts ● Formal and informal outdoor play spaces ● Maintenance of open space and sports facilities ● Integration with other outdoor uses such as growing food </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit opportunities for physical activity.</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">The provision of publicly accessible blue space, green spaces and play spaces can encourage physical activity and maintain or improve mental health</td> <td rowspan="3" style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design ● DS3: Sustainable Development Policy ● EM4: Flood Risk Management ● EM5: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) ● H3: Provision of New Housing ● GE1: Green Infrastructure ● GE2: Green Space ● IM1: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Green spaces that are of poor quality, feel unsafe, or are inaccessible will discourage physical activity and social interaction</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">A growing population, particularly an increase in children will require a range of formal and informal play spaces and equipment</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Failing to provide a range of different types of open and play spaces may place pressure on</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Natural spaces and tree cover provide areas of shade and can improve air quality in urban areas</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maximising green infrastructure in urban environments (including green roof systems and gardens and green walls) </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;">existing spaces where formal and informal activities may conflict with each other</td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● R2: Coventry City Centre – Development Strategy ● Community Infrastructure Levy </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">There may be opportunities to integrate play spaces with other related health and environmental programmes such as food growing and increasing biodiversity</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Green walls can also provide insulation or shading and cooling</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Green infrastructure can reduce flood risk</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities for physical activity ● Access to open and natural space, including water fronts ● Formal and informal outdoor play spaces ● Maintenance of open space and sports facilities ● Integration with other outdoor uses such as growing food 	Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit opportunities for physical activity.	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- b. Potential outcomes impact on specific socially excluded or vulnerable groups eg. people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers, young people leaving care, members of the armed forces community.

Ensuring access to a range of suitable open spaces in relation to new developments will meet a range of needs and circumstances: this is a key aim of the Local Plan housing and green infrastructure policies and the SPD provides the further detail to ensure that those policies can be delivered.

2.4 Next steps - What specific actions will you take to address the potential equality impacts and health inequalities identified above?

This was considered through the Local Plan (the 'parent document'), this document provides the detail to ensure the Local Plan policies can be delivered effectively

2.5 How will you monitor and evaluate the effect of this work?

The Local Plan already includes monitoring indicators.

2.6 Will there be any potential impacts on Council staff from protected groups?

No

You should only include the following data if this area of work will potentially have an impact on Council staff. This can be obtained from: lucille.buckley@coventry.gov.uk

Headcount:

Sex:

Age:

Female	
Male	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



16-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65+	

Disability:

Disabled	
Not Disabled	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Ethnicity:

White	
Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Religion:

Any other	
Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Jewish	
Muslim	
No religion	
Sikh	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual	
LGBT+	
Prefer not to state	
Unknown	

3.0 Completion Statement

As the appropriate Head of Service for this area, I confirm that the potential equality impact is as follows:

- No impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Positive impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
- Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups

4.0 Approval

Signed: Head of Service: David Butler	Date: 02/09/2021
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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Name of Director: Andrew Walster	Date sent to Director: 02/09/2021
Name of Lead Elected Member: Councillor David Welsh	Date sent to Councillor: 02/09/2021

Email completed EIA to equality@coventry.gov.uk