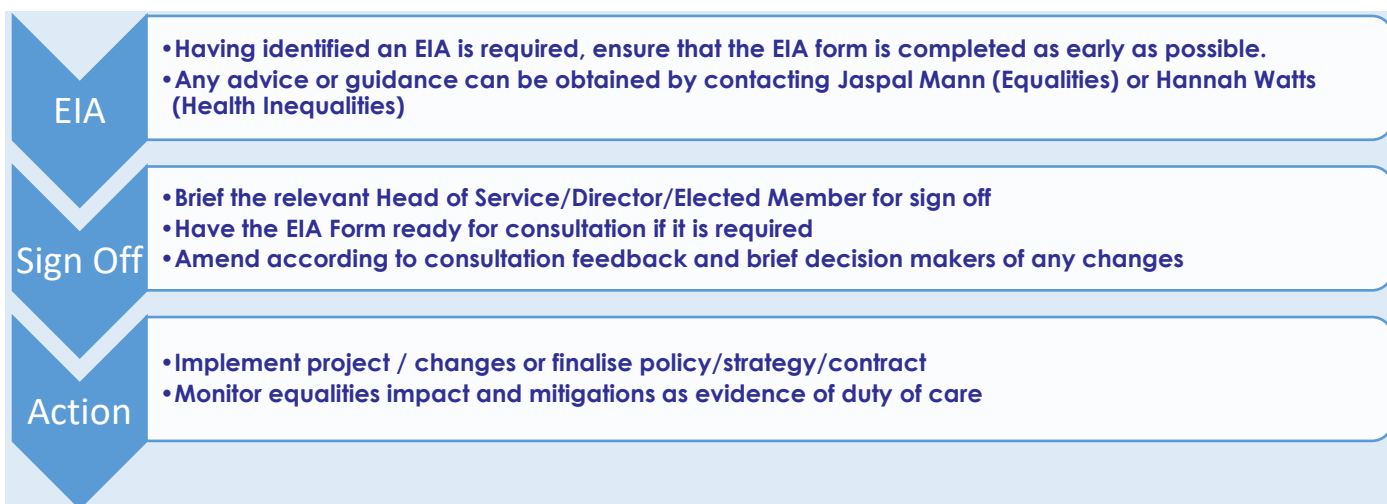


## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



<b>Title of EIA</b>	<b>EIA Open Space SPD</b>	
<b>EIA Author</b>	Name	<b>Clare Eggington</b>
	Position	<b>Principal Town Planner (Planning Policy)</b>
	Date of completion	<b>09/02/2022</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	Name	<b>David Butler</b>
	Position	<b>Head of Planning Policy and Environment</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Name	<b>Councillor David Welsh</b>
	Portfolio	<b>Housing and Communities</b>



**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*

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



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

The Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adds further details to the Local Plan which was adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Biodiversity Net Gain SPD is to set out the Council's approach towards achieving Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from any new development. BNG is achieved when a development leads to an overall increase biodiversity relative to the site beforehand. The Biodiversity Net Gain SPD sets out how this can be achieved in Coventry using established methods. It supplements Policy GE1 (Green Infrastructure), Policy GE3 (Biodiversity, Geological, Landscape and Archaeological Conservation) and Policy DS4 (Part A: General Masterplan principles) of the adopted Coventry Local Plan.

The additional guidance provided within the SPD aims to provide guidance for developers on how proposals can demonstrate they have met the requirements of planning policy related to biodiversity net gain in Coventry. By providing this information upfront Coventry City Council intends to provide additional clarity in the development process and ensure that negotiating obligations is based on a clear and consistent approach.

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

Developers who are required to deliver biodiversity gain as part of their proposals, those who deliver and maintain the resultant projects, and those members of the community who will benefit from more biodiversity in their local area.

### 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

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

### 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 a range of ecological studies and mapping. 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: how developers should calculate how much biodiversity they need to deliver, and the appropriate mechanism for doing this.

### 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 and nature 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) <sup>1</sup> . Ensuring that developments provide appropriate levels of biodiversity as part of a wider network of open spaces is essential.

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

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



Age 19-64	<b>P</b>	Access to open space and nature is a fundamental need for health and wellbeing. Biodiversity is an essential part of any sustainable community. 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 good design which incorporates biodiversity as part of a wider network of open spaces.
Age 65+	<b>P</b>	Access to open space and nature is a fundamental need for health and wellbeing. Biodiversity is an essential part of any sustainable community. 13.5% of Coventry City Council's residents are aged 65 and over and will benefit from the provision of good design which incorporates biodiversity as part of a wider network of open spaces.
Disability	<b>P</b>	Access to open space and nature is a fundamental need for health and wellbeing. Biodiversity is an essential part of any sustainable community. 17.7% of Coventry City Council's residents have a limiting long term health problem or disability and will benefit from the provision of good design which incorporates biodiversity as part of a wider network of open spaces.
Gender reassignment	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.
Pregnancy and maternity	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity..
Race (Including: colour, nationality, citizenship ethnic or national origins)	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.
Religion and belief	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.
Sex	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.
Sexual orientation	<b>P</b>	Individuals will benefit from safe and well designed open space provision which incorporates biodiversity.



HEALTH INEQUALITIES

**2.3** 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.

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

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

**Please answer the questions below to help identify if the area of work will have any impact on health inequalities, positive or negative.**

**If you need assistance in completing this section please contact: Hannah Watts ([hannah.watts@coventry.gov.uk](mailto: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](https://coventrycc.sharepoint.com/Info/Pages/What-is-an-Equality-Impact-Assessment-(EIA).aspx)**

Question	Issues to consider	
2.3a What HIs exist in relation to your work / plan / strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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>)</li> <li>● Consider protected characteristics and different dimensions of HI such as socio-economic status or geographical deprivation</li> </ul>	
	<p>Response:</p> <p>The Biodiversity Net Gain 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 <a href="https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan">https://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan</a> This was supplemented by a Health Impact Assessment SPD which provided further detail and guidance including that in relation to open space. See <a href="https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/28900/health_impact_assessment_spd">https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/28900/health_impact_assessment_spd</a></p>	

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



<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><b>Consider and answer below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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</li> <li>● Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be</li> </ul>																											
<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;"><b>Category 3: Access to open space and nature</b></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"> <li>● Opportunities for physical activity</li> <li>● Access to open and natural space, including water fronts</li> <li>● Formal and informal outdoor play spaces</li> <li>● Maintenance of open space and sports facilities</li> <li>● Integration with other outdoor uses such as growing food</li> </ul> </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"> <li>● DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design</li> <li>● DS3: Sustainable Development Policy</li> <li>● EM4: Flood Risk Management</li> <li>● EM5: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</li> <li>● H3: Provision of New Housing</li> <li>● GE1: Green Infrastructure</li> <li>● GE2: Green Space</li> <li>● IM1: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure</li> </ul> </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"> <li>● Maximising green infrastructure in urban environments (including green roof systems and gardens and green walls)</li> </ul> </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"> <li>● R2: Coventry City Centre – Development Strategy</li> <li>● Community Infrastructure Levy</li> </ul> </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"> <li>● Opportunities for physical activity</li> <li>● Access to open and natural space, including water fronts</li> <li>● Formal and informal outdoor play spaces</li> <li>● Maintenance of open space and sports facilities</li> <li>● Integration with other outdoor uses such as growing food</li> </ul>	Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit opportunities for physical activity.	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## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



- 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 which incorporate biodiversity 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 includes monitoring indicators which includes monitoring the Green Environment for example 'designing new development to accommodate wildlife'.

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](mailto: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

<b>Signed: Head of Service:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
---------------------------------	--------------



## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)



<b>Name of Director:</b>	<b>Date sent to Director:</b>
<b>Name of Lead Elected Member:</b>	<b>Date sent to Councillor:</b>

Email completed EIA to [equality@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:equality@coventry.gov.uk)