

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services team (see guidance for details).

Section 1

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: **Planning and City Regeneration**

Directorate: **Place**

Q1(a) WHAT ARE YOU SCREENING FOR RELEVANCE?

Service/
Function

Policy/
Procedure

Project

Strategy

Plan

Proposal

(b) Please name and describe here:

Name: Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands and Development Sites.

Description: The SPG provides supplementary planning guidance to support the implementation of Policy ER 11 in the adopted Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP). It sets out the steps that need to be considered at the planning and design stages and during construction to ensure that all significant existing and proposed trees are kept healthy and become an asset to a new development. Specific guidance is given on how to prevent damage during construction to the tree's soil and root structure, and how to incorporate into the development in line with relevant best practice guidance. Best practice guidance on tree, shrub and hedgerow planting on new developments is signposted and applicants are guided through the documentation required to be submitted with a planning application in relation to trees.

It should be noted that the SPG does not introduce new policy, it provides detailed clarification on the relevant policies set out in the LDP, which have been subject to EIA and Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. In addition, the SPG is primarily an update of the existing SPG adopted against the UDP. (October 2016). The only substantive change is to clarify that the council will require Category A and B trees to be incorporated into a development. (See section 4).

The document promotes and seeks to protect the value of trees as part of providing healthier and more sustainable environments. It recognises that trees in and around towns and cities have a vital role to play in

- Promoting sustainable communities through the significant contribution trees make to the cultural and heritage value in the context of a historic park, garden or designed landscape.
- Making a positive contribution to the scenic character, local distinctiveness and diversity of the landscape
- Creating 'place',
- Providing a vital habitat for dependent wildlife populations and substantial environmental benefits such as improving quality of life, attenuation of noise, flood alleviation and improving the climate and air quality.
- Protecting buildings from the elements, provide shade and assist in energy conservation.

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- Enhancing the setting of new development, its character, sense of maturity and overall quality thus helping with the saleability and profitability of properties.
- Attract businesses and visitors to quality environmental areas, thereby boosting the economy.
- Increasing public's awareness of environmental issues and the health benefits of being near or seeing trees is also increasing.
- Increasing pressure on developers to focus attention on trees and their role in providing a more pleasant and healthier environment.

Q2(a) WHAT DOES Q1a RELATE TO?

Direct front line service delivery <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Indirect front line service delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M)	Indirect back room service delivery <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
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(b) DO YOUR CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS ACCESS THIS...?

Because they need to <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Because they want to <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (M)	Because it is automatically provided to everyone in Swansea <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	On an internal basis i.e. Staff <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
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Q3 WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE FOLLOWING...

	High Impact (H)	Medium Impact (M)	Low Impact (L)	Don't know (H)
Children/young people (0-18) →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+) →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees) →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers) →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 WHAT ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION / CO-PRODUCTIVE APPROACHES WILL YOU UNDERTAKE?

The report seeks the approval of Members to undertake public and stakeholder consultation, for a minimum 6 week period, on the following documents:

- Development and Biodiversity (Consultation Draft)
- Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands on Development Sites (Consultation Draft)

Upon conclusion of public and stakeholder consultations, a schedule of all the comments received will be produced. This will include officer responses confirming whether amendments will be made to the document as a result of the comments made. This schedule will be reported back to Members for consideration alongside a final version of the documents, at which time Members will be asked to formally adopt them as SPG.

Q5(a) HOW VISIBLE IS THIS INITIATIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

High visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low visibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L)
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(b) WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL RISK TO THE COUNCIL'S REPUTATION? (Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (L)
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

- Yes
 No
 If yes, please provide details below

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Q7 HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Please tick the relevant box

MOSTLY H and/or M → **HIGH PRIORITY** → **EIA to be completed**
Please go to Section 2

MOSTLY L → **LOW PRIORITY /** → **Do not complete EIA**
NOT RELEVANT → **Please go to Q8**
followed by Section 2

Q8 If you determine that this initiative is not relevant for an EIA report, you must provide a full explanation here. Please ensure that you cover all of the relevant protected groups.

An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken and it has identified mostly low impacts. The SPG seeks to facilitate community cohesion by assisting the implementation of the relevant LDP policies. The LDP policies have already been subject to EIA and are based on a comprehensive, and up to date evidence base, which has been found sound by the Planning Inspectorate. The SPG balances the need to protect the environmental, social and economic value of trees with managing growth in a sustainable manner. A significant amount of engagement has already been completed in the formulation of the policies with the public; and key stakeholders, including NRW, Local Wildlife Groups, Council Officers and Local Councillors. A 6 week consultation is proposed which will provide opportunities for engagement via a range of methods, and the document will be reviewed and amended where appropriate in response to the consultation (in-line with Welsh Government planning guidance) before being presented to Planning Committee for approval to be adopted as planning guidance. Public consultation and engagement is a central element of producing planning guidance. This EIA screening will be reviewed following public consultation to respond to any equalities issues raised during the consultation.

Section 2

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email – no electronic signatures or paper copies are needed.

Screening completed by:	
Name:	Rachel Willis
Job title:	Principal Planning Officer
Date:	18/06/2020
Approval by Head of Service:	
Name:	Phil Holmes
Position:	Head of Service
Date:	