

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy/ Procedure <input type="checkbox"/>	Project <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
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(b) Please name and describe here:

Name: Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Biodiversity and Development

Description: The SPG provides supplementary planning guidance to support the implementation of policies in the adopted Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) on Biodiversity. It explains to planning applicants how the Council will implement the LDP's biodiversity policies in the context of legislation and policy requirements. The LDP policies cover consideration of designated sites (ER 6) and protected habitats and species (ER 8). Policy ER 9 ensures that development decisions take account of the wider ecosystem resilience of the site and how it connects with surrounding ecological corridors which are enable dispersal and function of protected and priority species. Where protected biodiversity features are present on a site, the Council will require the relevant ecological surveys and assessments to be submitted in support of an application. The SPG provides survey checklists and signposts to best practice guidance on how to carry out the necessary surveys and assessments. The SPG encourages engagement with the Council on biodiversity issues from an early stage of the development process in order to secure the best outcomes for biodiversity and the related social, economic and environmental ecosystem services provided as a result of maintaining and enhancing the natural environment.

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.

Q2(a) WHAT DOES Q1a RELATE TO?

Direct front line
service delivery

(H)

Indirect front line
service delivery

(M)

Indirect back room
service delivery

(L)

(b) DO YOUR CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS ACCESS THIS...?

Because they
need to

(H)

Because they
want to

(M)

Because it is
automatically provided to
everyone in Swansea

(M)

On an internal
basis
i.e. Staff

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> *	<input 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"/>

***The document will improve community cohesion by supporting the implementation of LDP policies on maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the County's places and spaces which contribute to mental and physical wellbeing.**

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

A six week public consultation and engagement process was undertaken on the draft version of the SPG between **4th September and 16th October 2020**. Face to face public engagement events were unable to occur due to constraints associated with Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, the consultation involved a wide range of awareness raising and engagement activities, including:

- Print media articles and social media notices before and during the consultation
- A specific web page created for the SPG that described the consultation, provided a weblink to the document, and a link to the comment form.
- Notification emails posted to a range of stakeholders, including Councillors
- Remote briefings to stakeholder groups via Microsoft Teams presentations.
- Publication of recorded video presentations on the Council's website.

Comments received in response to the consultation have been collated and evaluated, and are reported in a Consultation Report which provides the Council's response and suggested amendments to the final document to be adopted 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
 (H)

Medium risk
 (M)

Low risk
 (L)

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

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 / NOT RELEVANT → **Do not complete EIA**
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 was undertaken on the version of the document prepared for consultation. That EIA Screening identified mostly low impacts. This is an update of that EIA to reflect the consultation process undertaken.

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 delivery of the Council's S6 Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity with managing growth in a sustainable manner.

*The document will improve community cohesion by supporting the implementation of LDP policies on maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity in the development of the County's places and spaces which contribute to mental and physical wellbeing. 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 was undertaken which provided opportunities for engagement via a range of methods, and the document has now been reviewed and amended where appropriate in response to the consultation (in-line with Welsh Government planning guidance) and is now being

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presented to Planning Committee for approval to be adopted as planning guidance. Public consultation and engagement is a central element of producing planning guidance. No equalities issues were 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: 23/10/2020
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phil Holmes
Position: Head of Service
Date: