

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager

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Head of Section: Mandy Lewis, Assistant Director - Chief Planner, Regeneration and Place

Chief Officer: David Hughes, Director of Regeneration and Place

Directorate: Regeneration and Place

Date: 4 March 2024

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Application for the re-designation of a neighbourhood planning forum and neighbourhood planning area for Devonshire Park

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes / No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee 4 March 2024

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals. We encourage services to consider the impact on those who serve and who have served in the armed forces and their families, in accordance with the Armed Forces Covenant

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

| Which group(s) of people could be affected | Potential positive or negative impact | Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact | Lead person | Timescale | Resource implications |
|--|--|---|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| All groups | The object of the Forum, to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Devonshire Park area, has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Purpose' section, clause i refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The objective of the Forum to preserve and promote the unique character and identity of the Area with particular attention to clean, safe and peaceful environment, green spaces and heritage features has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Objectives' section, Clause i refers) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | | | | | |
|------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| All groups | The objective of the Forum to promote strong and sustainable balance of community with particular attention to the preservation of family housing stock, appropriate development of new family housing and regeneration of the Area has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Objectives' section, Clause ii refers) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The objective to forge strong and effective links with local police, local authority, businesses and other agencies as may collaborate towards the best interest and improvement of the Area has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Objectives' section, Clause iii refers) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The objective to encourage the goodwill and involvement of the whole community inclusive of all ages, gender, ethnicity, faith, health and sexual orientation in neighbourhood planning and community life has a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution 'Objectives' section, Clause iv refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The objective to foster strong community spirit and encouraging civic pride has a potential positive impact on all groups (Constitution 'Objectives' section, Clause v refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | Providing open membership for all who live in, work in, or are elected to represent the area has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Membership' section clause i refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| All groups | The requirement to make any decision that is material to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, including submission of the Plan to the local authority for approval, subject to a vote by members of the forum at a meeting has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Neighbourhood Planning' section, clause i refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The requirement to make a decision to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan subject to a vote by all residents of the Area, whether members of the Forum or not, has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution, 'Neighbourhood Planning' section, clause ii refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All groups | The aim that the management committee shall make best efforts to publicise the Neighbourhood Plan and to consult and engage with all stakeholders, utilising meetings, the community newsletter, social media and any other appropriate methods has a potential positive impact upon all groups (Constitution 'Neighbourhood Planning' section, clause iii refers). | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Membership of the Forum and the preparation of neighbourhood planning proposals will be monitored by the Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum under the provisions of their proposed Constitution.

The Council will also have a role in ensuring that any statutory requirements have been complied with before any neighbourhood planning proposals are submitted to statutory public examination and local referendum.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The proposed Constitution for the proposed Neighbourhood Forum contains the objectives which have been assessed under Section 4 of this EIA. The objectives focus on positive involvement of all members of the community and it is therefore considered that no negative impacts are likely to result from the designation of the Neighbourhood Forum, if confirmed. Holder.

This assessment will need to be reviewed within a subsequent EIA, to be prepared when the final content of any emerging neighbourhood planning proposals are available.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) – Guidelines (April 2014).

Documents provided as part of a formal application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum for Devonshire Park (as attached to the accompanying Committee Report), to meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 637) (as amended).

The results of statutory consultation undertaken between 15 December 2023 and 9 February 2024.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes / No – (please delete as appropriate)

No – Already undertaken (see below).

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

There is a statutory requirement for the Council to publish valid applications from local community groups that wish to have more control over planning and development within their local area by seeking designation as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

Consultation must take place over a period of not less than 6 weeks, to bring the application for designation to the attention of those who live, work or carry on business in the area, before the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum and associated Neighbourhood Area can be confirmed.

Statutory consultation took place between 15 December 2023 and 9 February 2024 to bring the application for designation to the attention of those who live, work or carry on business in the area to be affected.

The application documents were placed for public inspection on the Council's website and at Birkenhead Central Library.

A summary of the other arrangements are set out in section 8.0 of the accompanying Delegated Report.

No comments were submitted that would indicate that the designation of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum and proposed Neighbourhood Area should not take place, as applied for.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**