

Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening

Assessor(s) Name(s):	Julie Wilkins, Conservation Officer; Ollie Boulter, Team Leader, Policy & Conservation; Ian Lacey, Performance and Business Manager; Rosie Barnard, Lead Officer Equality & Diversity; Ben Gard, Trainee Legal Executive.
Directorate:	Economy & Environment
Date of Completion:	6 th July 2012

Name of Policy/Strategy/Service/Function Proposal

Planning & Regulatory Services – Proposed designation of Niton Village Conservation Area

The Aims, Objectives and Expected Outcomes:

The process being assessed is the proposed designation of Niton Village Conservation Area. Those affected by this designation are (a) residents and businesses (property owners) to be included within the boundary and (b) tourists who come into contact with the conservation area. Conservation area designation has an impact with regard to the amenity of the area and maintenance of the architectural and/or historic character.

The benefit of conservation area designation is that the Isle of Wight Council recognises that a quality built environment is an essential element in creating distinctive, enjoyable and successful places in which to live and work. The Eco Island Sustainable Community Strategy and Island Plan Core Strategy recognise that our historic environment assets attract investment and tourism, can provide a focus for successful regeneration and are highly valued by local communities.

Local consultation took place as determined by the relevant legislation. Consultation gives local residents the opportunity to be more involved in the conservation area designation and appraisal process and informs them of the decision making process.

The relevance of the aims of the conservation area designation process to the equality target group and the council's duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity is that in maintaining the historic built environment, to ensure that an area's unique character is not undermined, is a benefit to all residents, businesses and visitors regardless of their protected characteristics as described under the Equality Act (2010). Whilst conservation area designation does impact on the planning process with regard to the consideration given to the quality of new developments and alterations to existing buildings which require planning permission (either because the building is commercial or divided into flats or because conservation area designation has placed restrictions on permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) any proposal that requires planning permission as a result of the designation will be judged on its planning merits.

Please delete as appropriate:


- ~~This is a new policy/strategy/service/council function proposal~~

- This is a proposal for an existing council function.

Key Questions to Consider in Assessing Potential Impact	
Will the policy, strategy, service or council function proposal have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics or other reasons that are relevant issues for the local community and/or staff?	Yes
Has previous consultation identified this issue as important or highlighted negative impact and/or we have created a “legitimate expectation” for consultation to take place? A legitimate expectation may be created when we have consulted on similar issues in the past or if we have ever given an indication that we would consult in such situations	No
Do different groups of people within the local community have different needs or experiences in the area this issue relates to?	Yes
Could the aims of these proposals be in conflict with the council’s general duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not?	No
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how services or a council function/s is/are delivered?	No
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	No
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment of resources?	No
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities?	Yes
<p>If you answer Yes to any of these questions, it will be necessary for you to proceed to a full Equality Impact Assessment after you have completed the rest of this initial screening form.</p> <p>If you answer No to all of these questions, please provide appropriate evidence using the table below and complete the evidence considerations box and obtain sign off from your Head of Service.</p>	

Protected Characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reasons
Age		X		There may be an impact on this protected characteristic due to the age structure of the population of the local area and the process of determining planning applications for new development and adaption of properties in a conservation area. However, where a planning application is required (either because the building is commercial or divided into flats or because conservation area designation has placed restrictions on permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) such applications are determined on their planning merits.
Disability		X		There may be an impact on this protected characteristic due to the age structure of the population of the local area and the process of determining planning applications for new development and adaption of properties in a conservation area. However, where a planning application is required (either because the building is commercial or divided into flats or because conservation area designation has placed restrictions on permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) such applications are determined on their planning merits.
Gender Reassignment			X	To ensure that the Island's historic environment is protected for all.
Marriage & Civil Partnership			X	“
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	“
Race			X	“
Religion / Belief			X	“
Sex (male / female)			X	“
Sexual Orientation			X	“

Are there aspects of the proposal that contribute to or improve the opportunity for equality?	No
<i>If answered Yes, describe what these are and how they may be promoted or enhanced.</i>	

Evidence Considered During Screening	
<p>Information collected during informal drafting of the conservation area. Information gathered during the consultation process (complaints/feedback from those consulted plus other interested parties) Assessment made of the impact of the planning process with regard to the designation of conservation areas, notably the consideration given to the quality of new developments and alterations to existing buildings which require planning permission (either because the building is commercial or divided into flats or because conservation area designation has placed restrictions on permitted development rights). Information sought from the Business Intelligence Unit as to number of properties/households affected and the social background/population age profile.</p> <p>The information above will be expanded upon in more detail in the following Stage 2 Full Equality Assessment Impact.</p>	
Head of Service Sign off:	 Bill Murphy
Advice sought from Legal Services (Name)	Ben Gard
Date	6 th July 2012

A signed version is to be kept by your team and also an electronic version should be published on the council's website (follow the link from the EIA page on the intranet)