

EQUALITY ANALYSIS QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

<p>Name of 'proposal' and how has it been implemented (proposal can be a policy, service, function, strategy, project, procedure, restructure/savings proposal)</p>	<p>High Density Living Supplementary Planning Document</p>
<p>Directorate / Service</p>	<p>Place, Planning & Building Control</p>
<p>Lead officer</p>	<p>Lucia Cerrada Morato/Michael Ritchie</p>
<p>Signed off by (including date)</p>	
<p>Summary – to be completed at the end of completing the QA (using Appendix A) (Please provide a summary of the findings of the Quality Assurance checklist. What has happened as a result of the QA? For example, based on the QA a Full EA will be undertaken or, based on the QA a Full EA will not be undertaken as due regard to the nine protected groups is embedded in the proposal and the proposal has low relevance to equalities)</p>	<p> Proceed with implementation</p> <p>As a result of performing the QA checklist, the High Density Living SPD is not considered to have any adverse effects on people who share protected characteristics and no further actions are recommended at this stage. The potential impacts will be reconsidered in light of the outcomes of the proposed public consultation.</p>

Stage	Checklist area/question	Yes/no/unsure	Comment (If the answer is no/unsure, please ask the question to the SPP Service Manager or nominated equality lead to clarify)

1	Overview of proposal		
a	Are the outcomes of the proposals clear?	Yes	<p>The High Density Living Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide design guidance for high-density residential and mixed-use development to ensure that this type of development contributes toward a high quality of life for residents.</p> <p>The SPD takes a holistic view of quality of life in high-density development and seeks to address a number of the sustainability objectives of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equality; reducing social exclusion and promoting equality. ▪ Liveability; promote, liveable, safe, high quality neighbourhoods with good quality services. ▪ Housing; ensure that all residents have access to good quality, well-located, affordable housing that meets a range of needs and promotes liveability. ▪ Open space; enhance and increase open spaces that are high quality, networked and multi-functional. ▪ Climate change; ensure the incorporation of mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce and respond to the implications of climate change. ▪ Natural resources; ensure sustainable use and projection of natural resources, including water, land and air, and reduce waste.
b	Is it clear who will be or is likely to	Yes	The SPD is a borough wide

	<p>be affected by what is being proposed (including service users and staff)? Is there information about the equality profile of those affected?</p>		<p>document that will potentially impact all those who live in Tower Hamlets, but especially those that live within, or near to, new high-density residential development. A review of the draft guidance has not revealed any instances where the content of the policies would give rise to adverse effects on people who shared protected characteristics.</p>
2	Monitoring/collecting evidence/data and consultation		
a	<p>Is there reliable qualitative and quantitative data to support claims made about impacts?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The impacts of the proposal have been considered in light of a range of qualitative and quantitative data. In particular, primary data was collected to help the council understand the borough's resident's experience of living in and around high-density development. This primary data was collected from surveys and semi-structured interviews, involving residents and neighbours. To ensure that data was from a range of different developments located across the borough. Quotas were used to ensure that data was collected from a range of different dwelling types, including from different tenures, different size of units and from different locations with each building. Surveys and interviews were conducted at a variety of different times of days, and where necessary, through an interpreter. Residents were given a choice of being interviewed at their home or a neutral location of their choice. All of the survey and interviews included information relating to protected characteristics so that results could be cross tabulated to</p>

			understand the impacts on particular groups. All data was collected in compliance with GDPR regulations.
	Is there sufficient evidence of local/regional/national research that can inform the analysis?	Yes	In addition to the primary data that has been collected, a variety of local, regional, national and international research had been consulted to help develop a better understanding of the ways in which high-density development impacts on resident's quality of life. This includes research carried by other council services, other local authorities, the Greater London Authority, developers building high-density housing, architects design high density housing and research carried out by the project team into how high-density housing is designed across Asia, Europe and North America.
b	Has a reasonable attempt been made to ensure relevant knowledge and expertise (people, teams and partners) have been involved in the analysis?	Yes	From inception, the project has drawn on a range of knowledge and expertise to support the analysis of effects on people who share protected characteristics. For example, the project has drawn on the expertise from groups and individuals with expertise in child play, public health, waste management, sustainability, community engagement, development management and community cohesion.
c	Is there clear evidence of consultation with stakeholders and users from groups affected by the proposal?	Yes	Early consultation with stakeholders and users from groups affected by the proposal include surveys and interviews with residents (including children and young people), interviews with building managers and caretakers and workshops with

			affordable housing providers and neighbourhood forums.
3	Assessing impact and analysis		
a	Are there clear links between the sources of evidence (information, data etc) and the interpretation of impact amongst the nine protected characteristics?	Yes	Conclusions about the potential impact of the proposals have been drawn from the primary data that has been collected and corroborated by further research and engagement with experts and stakeholders.
b	Is there a clear understanding of the way in which proposals applied in the same way can have unequal impact on different groups?	Yes	The proposed guidance seeks to improve the convenience and liveability of high density living environments for parents and their children, which will have a positive impact for the pregnancy and maternity characteristic. These improvements to living environments will also improve mobility, which will have a positive impact on some within the disability characteristic. The proposed guidance also seeks to address loneliness and isolation, which will have a positive impact on those within the age characteristic. The proposed guidance is considered to have no particular impacts on those that share the remaining characteristics (marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, sex, religion or belief, race and gender reassignment).
4	Mitigation and improvement action plan		
a	Is there an agreed action plan?	N/A	No adverse effects on people who share protected characteristics have been identified. As such, there is no requirement for an agreed action plan.
b	Have alternative options been	Yes	Alternative guidance options were

	explored		given careful consideration during the early development of the design guidance. The forthcoming public consultation may give rise to further guidance options, the equalities impacts of which will be assessed accordingly.
5	Quality assurance and monitoring		
a	Are there arrangements in place to review or audit the implementation of the proposal?	Yes	The council will put in place arrangements to continue to collect primary data about the resident's experiences of living in high density development. The onus to carry out these post occupancy evaluations will be placed on housing developers through legal agreements attached to planning permission. The implementation of planning policy and guidance is also monitored on a regular basis in the Annual Monitoring Report and the implementation of this guidance will also be considered as part of this process.
b	Is it clear how the progress will be monitored to track impact across the protected characteristics?	Yes	The data that is collected from the post occupancy evaluations will include information about protected characteristics so that the council can evaluate the impact of the proposal on these groups.
6	Reporting outcomes and action plan		
a	Does the executive summary contain sufficient information on the key findings arising from the assessment?	Yes	The report recommends that note is taken of the findings of this assessment.

**Appendix A
(Sample) Equality Assessment Criteria**

Decision	Action
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<p>As a result of performing the QA checklist, it is evident that due regard is not evidenced in the proposal and / or a risk of discrimination exists (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) to one or more of the nine groups of people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i>. It is recommended that the proposal be suspended until further work or analysis is performed – via a the Full Equality Analysis template</p>	<p>Susp Furtl Requ</p>
<p>As a result of performing the QA checklist, the policy, project or function does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.</p>	<p>Proc impl</p>