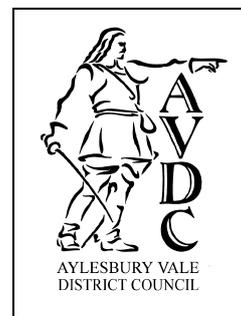


equality impact assessment workbook



step one – identification and scope

1.0 The title of this assessment

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

1.1 Date of the assessment

8 September 2017

1.2 Responsible officer

Helen White

1.3 Extension number

5151

1.4 Email address

hwhite@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

1.5 This is an assessment of

A function or procedure

A policy/strategy in existence

A policy that covers the scope of a function (and therefore no separate assessment is needed of the function)

A new policy/procedure yet to be adopted

1.6 These are the aims and objectives of the policy or function and the scope of the assessment

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is the cornerstone of planning for the whole district and is critical to delivering national, community and corporate objectives and aspirations. It sets the ambition and direction for the district as a whole, which all relevant strategies and delivery plans of the council and its delivery partners should support. This includes proposals by development partners and in neighbourhood policy documents that may emerge. It reflects the council's overall vision which is:

To secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and businesses in the area

The Plan contains eight strategic objectives which include objectives for the delivery of

- housing to meet residents' needs
- infrastructure services and facilities to meet the needs of existing and new communities
- measures and initiatives that strengthen the quality of life for new and existing residents

These various needs are carefully grounded in the evidence-base obtained by the Council in its preparations for the Plan, and which will be examined by an independent inspector at the forthcoming local plan examination.

When it is finalised, the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will manage and direct growth until 2033 in a way that will protect what makes the district a special place.

This assessment will look at the consultation carried out prior to the adoption of the plan and the steps taken to ensure that due regard has been had to equality issues (the need to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations) in the preparation of the plan.

1.7 These are the sources of evidence used and the key facts that informed the assessment of the function or policy

Equality Strategy
Equality Framework
Relevant legislation
Internal and external consultations
Equality Report

step two – consultation

2.0 This is how and when the consultation was carried out

The first broad scoping consultation on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) took place over an 8-week period in spring 2014. This was followed by a consultation on issues and options for the local plan from Friday 23 October until Friday 4 December 2015. Once duplicate and call for sites responses were separated out the total number of respondents was 771 providing 4,480 individual responses to the questions which were asked.

Then from 7 July – 5 September 2016, consultation took place on the draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. More than 1,600 responses and over 5,000 comments were received. Respondents included: residents, community groups, district/county councillors, parish/town councillor/clerk, businesses and residents

in neighbouring districts. The overwhelming majority of responses came from residents in Aylesbury Vale. Through the consultation, residents and other interested parties were able to comment on any aspect of the draft plan, such as locations identified for new homes and jobs and the wording of the policies.

Ten exhibitions were held across the district throughout the summer, giving local people the opportunity to find out more about the draft local plan and discuss their concerns with planning officers. Also, a letter inviting people to respond was sent/emailed to everyone on AVDC's Local Plan consultation database which is compiled from statutory consultees and those residents and organisations who have asked to be included on the database. The database includes over 3,300 entries and includes specifically relevant groups such as: the National Federation for Gypsy Liaison, Action 4 Youth and Buckingham Access for All.

Further publicity and information was provided by way of a press release, leaflet, exhibitions and articles and social media. A copy of the draft VALP and all the associated evidence documents was available to view on the AVDC website.

2.1 These groups/stakeholders were consulted

As above.

2.2 This is a summary of the responses

A summary of the responses to the draft VALP can be seen via the following link

http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/VALP/VALP_Summary%20Report%20_301116_A1.pdf

Broadly the comments focused on

- the quantity and distribution of housing including housing to meet those with special needs/disabilities and affordable housing
- provision of essential infrastructure and services such as education and health provision
- the hierarchy of settlements and the relationship with neighbourhood plans
- employment provision
- protecting the natural environment including the Green Belt

2.3 What actions were taken/amendments were made as a result of the consultation?

The Plan itself is a response to the consultation and was revised in many respects to reflect the views gathered through the consultation process. For example, objections were received from many villages regarding the proportionate of development planned for their village. Therefore, the plan's approach was changed to reflect the capacity of a settlement to accommodate development. A number of previously proposed housing allocations have also been removed from the plan such as a large allocation adjacent to the village of Whaddon. The transportation section has also been modified to encompass a broader and more strategic approach to all forms of transportation.

step three – assessing impacts

3.0 Was any evidence that the policy or function discriminates against one or more of the equality groups found?

		Yes	No	
3.1	Analysis of Impacts	Negative Impact	Negative Impact	Summaries of how it impacts and any reasons identified for the impact
		Yes	No	
	Race	()	(X)	<p>Note - As a key part of the plan is concerned with meeting the community's housing and infrastructure needs (including the elderly, those with disabilities, gypsy & travellers and those unable to afford market housing) it is considered that the Plan will result in a positive impact for those groups. In particular, the Plan plays a vital role in advancing equality of opportunity by catering for the needs of specific groups and, through this, encouraging their participation in public life. Similarly, the provision of high quality housing to suit the needs of different groups should help to tackle prejudice and promote understanding across communities</p>
	Gender	()	(X)	
	Disability	()	(X)	
	Age	()	(X)	
	Faith or Belief	()	(X)	
	Sexual Orientation	()	(X)	
	Other (Please specify)	()	()	
3.2	If any groups were specifically excluded from the benefits of the policy or function these are highlighted here			
	No			
3.3	The council has these procedures and actions in place to mitigate against any potential impacts			
	Equalities Strategy Equalities Framework			

<p>A comprehensive Complaints and Appeals procedure to deal with residents' issues. Equalities Report</p>			
<p>3.4 Where this assessment has revealed specific impacts, here we identify the changes we need to make and the controls we need to put in place</p> <p>No specific alterations or mitigation have been identified as necessary by this assessment.</p> <p>The Local Plan will be submitted to an independent planning inspector for Examination and alterations will be made if necessary. Anyone making representations about the plan will have the opportunity to appear at the Examination and present evidence.</p>			
<p>3.5 Where we have identified additional needs for some groups, we have considered whether positive action can be taken to meet these</p> <p>A broad range of relevant groups have their specific needs addressed by the local plan. For example, in light of a change in the government definition of a gypsy or traveller, this traveller community was given the opportunity to directly engage with independent consultants about how the new definition would affect them. However, unfortunately despite our best efforts a significant proportion of the traveller community have been reluctant to engage with the consultants. Nevertheless, the Plan makes provision to meet the needs of this group, based on the evidence available to us. If the event that further information regarding the needs of this community becomes available to the council in future (and efforts will be continue to be made to engage with this group), the council's approach will be adjusted accordingly.</p>			
<p>3.6 These are the budgetary implications for change</p> <p>N/A</p>			
<p>3.7 Actions to be taken</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1529 1369 1608"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="274 1538 373 1570">Action</th> <th data-bbox="719 1538 791 1570">Date</th> <th data-bbox="1075 1538 1362 1608">Priority level (high/medium/low)</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Action	Date	Priority level (high/medium/low)
Action	Date	Priority level (high/medium/low)	
<p>3.8 The council used the following methods to gain feedback on the main issues raised in this assessment</p> <p>We are engaging with the County Council's gypsy & traveller community officer for help in consulting with this group.</p>			
<p>3.9 These were the responses received when this assessment was circulated</p>			

None
3.10 These are the additional actions/amendments identified
None

step four – feedback, action planning and monitoring			
4.0	This is how the actions identified here will be monitored and what will be measured		
	A Local Plan monitoring system will be implemented to check the implementation of the plan and the policies in it. The system is set out in the local plan and will be finalised once the Plan is adopted. Revisions to the plan will be made as part of a proposed early review, although these will have to be subjected to a lengthy formal process before adjustments can be made.		
4.1	Responsibility for monitoring these actions		
	The AVDC Forward Plans and Economic Development team.		
4.2	These specific actions are included in team targets		
	Yes	()	No (X) Any actions will be determined once the plan is adopted.
4.3	This impact assessment should be reviewed in 3 years. This is the date of the next assessment		
	September 2020		
4.4	This impact assessment was presented to the Stakeholders/Consultees for endorsement on		
	N/A		
4.5	The stakeholders/consultees endorsed this assessment on		
	N/A		