

# Equality impact assessment

Forward Plan ref. I016272

**Date assessment completed:** 20/7/24

**Title of equality impact assessment:** Adoption of East of Harlow Masterplanning Guidance (EHMG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

**Service:** Strategic Growth and Regeneration

**Team:** Forward Planning

## Focus / aim of equality impact assessment

To examine the potential impacts of adopting the EHMG SPD.

## Names and roles of officers completing the assessment

David Watts – Senior Forward Planning Officer

**Contact telephone number of lead officer** 01279 446577

## Policy / service / function details

**This is an update to an existing policy/service/function**

**What is the purpose of the policy / service / function?**

East of Harlow is one of Harlow and Gilston Garden Town's strategic sites. It sits across the Harlow District (HDC) and Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) border, with 2,600 homes proposed within Harlow and 750 homes within Epping Forest. It also includes the proposed site for the new Princess Alexandra Hospital, and is covered by Essex County Council (ECC) as the Highways Authority.

The decision was taken by the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) partners to produce the East of Harlow Masterplanning Guidance (EHMG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The aim is to provide guidance for a developer producing a masterplan for the site, to ensure the masterplan reflects the HGGT Vision.

Adopting the EHMG as an SPD will ensure the guidance has as much planning weight as possible, as a material consideration, and will be robust to ensure the developer prepares a masterplan which reflects the visions for the site and the overall Garden Town.

**Who are the key stakeholders?**

- Harlow Council and Epping Forest District Council as local planning authority in their respective parts of the area
- Essex County Council as highways authority in the area
- Owners/tenants of properties and land in and near the area
- Infrastructure suppliers
- Environmental organisations (e.g. Environment Agency)

- Other national and local groups (e.g. Churchgate Street Residents Association)

### **Are there any other documents / strategies linked to this policy / service / function?**

- Epping Forest Local Plan (EFLP), Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy, Sustainability Guide
- Harlow Local Development Plan (HLDP)
- HGGT Vision, Design Guide, Transport Strategy, Sustainability Guidance and Checklist, GI Strategy Framework
- Essex County Council (ECC) Highways Sustainable Transport Corridor (STC) Guidance, Access Guidance and Traffic Modelling, ECC Garden Communities, ECC Planning School Places, and ECC GI Strategy

### **Who is affected by the policy / service / function?**

- Harlow Council and Epping Forest District Council as local planning authority in their respective parts of the area
- Essex County Council as highways authority in the area
- Owners/tenants of properties and land in and near the area
- Infrastructure suppliers
- Environmental organisations (e.g. Environment Agency)
- Other national and local groups (e.g. Churchgate Street Residents Association)

### **Who has been involved in the development of the policy / service / function?**

- Officers at Harlow Council, Epping Forest District Council, Essex County Council
- People/organisations who provided responses to the public consultation
- Owners/tenants of properties and land in and near the area
- Infrastructure suppliers
- Environmental organisations (e.g. Environment Agency)
- Other national and local groups (e.g. Churchgate Street Residents Association)

### **Which staff carry out the policy / service / function?**

The SPD will affect the Development Management team, as the SPD will be a material consideration when determining planning applications, masterplan(s) and design code(s) for the area.

### **Quantitative and qualitative data**

#### **Quantitative**

**Quantitative Research is used to quantify the problem by way of generating numerical data or data that can be transformed into usable statistics. It is used to quantify attitudes, opinions, behaviours, and other defined variables – and generalise results from a larger sample population.**

### **What quantitative (numerical) data do you already have about those who use or will use the policy / service / function?**

- Development Management Team, approximately five officers (plus admin support) at Harlow Council (plus officers at Epping Forest District Council)
- Developers and land owners/agents who have an interest in the area – multiple

### **What gaps are there in the quantitative data?**

No known gaps which will have implications.

### **What other quantitative data do you need?**

No further data is known to be required.

## **Qualitative**

**Qualitative research is a process of naturalistic inquiry that seeks an in-depth understanding of social phenomena within their natural setting. It focuses on the "why" rather than the "what" of social phenomena and relies on the direct experiences of human beings as meaning-making agents in their everyday lives.**

**What qualitative data do you already have about those who use or will use the policy / service / function?**

- Development Management team
- Developers and land owners/agents who have an interest in the area

**What gaps are there in the qualitative data?**

No known gaps which will have implications.

**What other qualitative data do you need?**

No further data is known to be required.

## **Consultation**

**Number of formal or informal consultation that have taken place or that you are planning to hold to inform your Equality impact assessment**

- Quality Review Panel, November 2022
- Public consultation, July 2023 to October 2023

Title of consultation	Date	Who did you consult with?	What were the main issues raised?	Gaps in data	If further consultations are needed to fill these gaps – state with whom, by whom, when and how is this going to be done?
HGGT Quality Review Panel	Nov 2022	- HGGT Quality Review Panel	- Various relating to the content and design of the document	N/A	N/A
Public consultation	31/7/23 – 16/10/23	- Statutory bodies - Local landowners - Local Plan database contacts - Internal departments - Social media channels - Hard copies in certain public places - Website	- See Consultation Statement and/or Cabinet report	None which have implications.	N/A

## Protected characteristic groups from the Equality Act 2010

**Assessment of Impact – Based on the data you have analysed and provided, and the results of the consultation or research you have undertaken, list below how the policy or function will or does work for each of the following equalities groups.**

## Protected characteristic groups from the Equality Act 2010

Age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

### What do you know?

Positive impact on protected characteristic groups, including those relating to age and disability, as the SPD refers to street and housing design which considers issues surrounding older age and certain disabilities.

### What do people tell you?

Need to ensure good design and adherence to Building Regulations.

**What does this mean?**

Ensuring that developers design and build houses and streets to standards which consider people of older age and people with certain disabilities.

**What can you do?**

The Council ensures that development meets the relevant design and Building Control requirements.

**Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

The SPD will be monitored in accordance with usual monitoring of Planning policies, guidance, etc.

**Action plan**

**Number of action plans** N/A

**Project Manager**

**Project Manager:** David Watts (Senior Forward Planning officer)

**Date:** 20/2/24

**Assistant Director** Pauline Elliott (Interim Head of Planning and Building Control)

**Date:** 20/2/24