

## **Draft strategies/policies – Equality Impact Check**

**Draft strategy/policy being checked:**

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Additional Sites and Detailed Policies

**Is this draft strategy/policy:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>South only</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Vale only</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Joint across both councils</b>

**Service team: Planning Policy**

**Officer completing this: Catherine Harker**

**Once completed:**

Date completed: 01 /03 /2017

Signed \_\_\_ Catherine Harker \_\_\_ (Officer)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Head of Service)

Signed \_ Sally Truman, Policy & Partnerships Manager \_\_\_ (for Cheryl Reeves, equalities officer)

**PLEASE NOTE – THIS CHECK MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUR DRAFT STRATEGY IS SUBMITTED TO MANAGEMENT TEAM AND COUNCILLORS FOR APPROVAL**

## **Why do you need to do this Equality Impact Check?**

Our strategies and policies set out the way we will deliver our services (including employment opportunities). When we are developing them, we need to check that they are not going to create any barriers which could prevent people from accessing our services.

**People in the Vale of the White Horse may face barriers because of things like disability, gender (including transgender, pregnancy and maternity), age, sexual orientation, rural isolation, income, religion/belief or ethnicity.**

As well as thinking about how our services will meet the needs of these groups of people, we also need to consider how our draft strategies and policies will help us to:

- promote positive relations within communities
- give everyone a voice
- respect and value everyone
- protect people's human rights

This Equality Impact Check provides officers with a framework to help them work through these considerations in relation to their draft policy/strategy, ensuring that we are meeting our legal duties with regards to equality and diversity.

We have a statutory duty to carry out these assessments and they contribute towards our corporate priority to optimise access to services

**If you have any queries about this Check or would like some advice/support in completing it, please contact the Shared equalities officer (see contact details below).**

**Once you've completed this Equality Impact Check, please send the paperwork to the shared equality officer, along with a copy of the draft strategy/policy.**

Cheryl Reeves (equalities officer)  
Email: [cheryl.reeves@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:cheryl.reeves@southandvale.gov.uk)  
Telephone: x7324

## OUTLINE OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY / POLICY YOU ARE CHECKING:

### 1. What are the aims and objectives of this draft strategy/policy?

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Additional Sites and Detailed Policies (LPP2) forms part of the Development Plan, which will guide future planning decisions in the Vale of White Horse District. It follows on from the Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1) that was adopted by the Council in December 2016.

The main purpose of LPP2 is to set out:

- policies and locations for new housing to meet the Vale's proportion of Oxford's housing need, which cannot be met within the City boundaries, as agreed by Oxfordshire Growth Board
- policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale of White Horse District
- detailed development management policies to complement the strategic policies set out in LPP1 and replace the remaining saved policies of the Local Plan 2011, where appropriate, and
- additional site allocations for housing

This Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) covers the detailed policies and additional site allocations proposed in LPP2.

### 2. Who is the proposed strategy or policy designed to support / help / serve?

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 provides a policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across the District which will form a basis for planning decisions. It will also help to support local residents, local community organisations, town and parishes, councillors and developers to understand the policies that development management officers will use to determine applications.

### 3. Does the draft strategy or policy have the potential to cause a **negative impact or discriminate against certain groups in the community?** Gender, disability, age, race,

religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, rural. – referred to as protected characteristics, with the exception of rural.

*(NB. Gypsies & travellers come under beliefs/ethnicity due to differences in lifestyle beliefs)*

The following symbols have been used:

- √ positive outcome for these specific groups in relation to the community as a whole (ie. The policy may be positively beneficial for particular groups)
- no discernible impact in relation to the community as a whole
- × negative outcome for these specific groups in relation to the community as a whole, for example not meeting their needs
- ? unknown impact in relation to the community as a whole

**If positive outcome** – explain what existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? e.g. will the policies advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic?

This means will they:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people

If you feel the local plan policies could do more to advance equal opportunities, include this in the action plan at the end of the document.

**If negative outcome** - please explain how the policies could cause a negative impact or discriminate. If you can not justify this you will need to take mitigating action, complete the action plan at the end of this assessment.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Table 1 below assesses the impacts of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 policies against each protected characteristic.

**Table 1**

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
<b>Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities:</b>													
<b>Housing Policies:</b>													
1	Space Standards	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This policy will ensure that more houses are built to Category 2 standard of Building Regulations, in order to provide suitable homes for those with physical disabilities and for older people.	None
2	Sub-Division of Dwellings	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The council will generally support the sub-division of dwellings. This will create additional homes at lower cost, of particular benefit to lower income groups, such as young people and retired people.	None
3	Residential Annexes	-	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	This policy aims to support ancillary dwellings for dependant relatives. This will help to serve people with disabilities and older and younger people who have not been able to move out of their home due to housing prices, and families from cultures or religions where extended families live in close proximity.	Amended as per Equality Officer's suggestion

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
4	Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside												
5	Rural Workers' Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rural workers dwellings may be supported where appropriate and where existing dwellings in the locality are not available.	None
6	Re-use of Buildings in the Countryside	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Re-use of existing buildings as dwellings may be supported subject to certain criteria.	None

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
<b>Community Facility Policies:</b>													
7	Community Services and Facilities	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development proposals that result in the loss of, or detrimental impacts on, essential community services and facilities (such as daycare for older people or those with disabilities) will only be supported where the service is no longer required.	Amended to say that loss of community facilities will only be allowed if no longer required (by, for example, groups using the facilities as day care etc)
8	Public Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	The redevelopment of public houses will be permitted under certain circumstances. This will keep such buildings in use and increase the number of people in the countryside preventing rural isolation.	None
<b>Supporting Economic Prosperity:</b>													
<b>Employment Policies:</b>													
9	Ancillary Uses on Employment Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	On employment sites, proposals for uses other than B1, B2 and B8 will be supported subject to certain criteria.	None

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
10	Community Employment Plans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	New developments should look for opportunities to employ local people and to source supplies and services locally where possible.	None
11	Rural Diversification & Equestrian development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Proposals for rural diversification will generally be supported provided they are ancillary and related to the existing business enterprise.	None
<b>Retail Policies:</b>													
12	Changes of Use of Retail units	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Changes of retail use in town centres will be restricted to protect the viability of the town centre and protect residential amenity and accessibility.	Accessible to all users
13	Villages and Local Shops	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development or extension of village shops with good accessibility will be generally supported and loss of village shops will require justification.	Accessibility for those with impaired mobility
14	Retail Parks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	On the existing retail parks at Fairacres in Abingdon and Seacourt Tower in Botley retail uses will be restricted to stores selling bulky goods.	None

Local plan policies	Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
<b>Supporting Sustainable Transport &amp; Accessibility:</b>												
<b>Transport Policies:</b>												
15	Access	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Proposals for development will need to provide safe and convenient access and parking including for those with disabilities.	Visual impairments but does mention people with disabilities
16	Transport Assessments & Travel Plans	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Transport Assessments and Travel Plans will need to be developed in accordance with Oxfordshire County Council guidance and also the latest Planning Practice Guidance.	Travel plans to include accessible transport for disabled
17	Public Car Parking in Settlements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Town centre car parking will be protected to protect the viability of those towns.	Support larger spaces for parent & child or mobility impaired but no badge

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
18	Lorries & Roadside Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Provision of additional service facilities along A420 and A34 permitted on sites identified for the purpose on the proposals map.	None
<b>Protecting the Environment &amp; Responding to Climate Change:</b>													
<b>Design Policies:</b>													
19	Public Art	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The Council will seek to support and promote the arts in association with new development in a variety of locations. This will increase the attractiveness of the area, to benefit all users.	None
20	External Lighting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lighting should not affect the character of the area.	None
21	Advertisements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Adverts should contribute to an attractive environment.	None
22	Impact of Development on Amenity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development should not harm the amenity of neighbouring uses.	None

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
23	The effect of Neighbouring or Previous Uses on New Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	New developments should be located so that they are not harmed by existing uses nearby.	None
<b>Landscape Policies:</b>													
28	Settlement Character and Gaps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Retaining the open character and setting of our settlements helps to make the district more attractive for all users.	None
<b>Green Infrastructure &amp; Corridors Policies:</b>													
29	Watercourses	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Watercourses and their environs will be protected for the enjoyment of all users.	Accessibility for all groups should be promoted
30	Protection of Public Rights of Way, National Trails and Open Access Areas	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The Council will protect public rights of way and national trails for whilst promoting access for all users.	Amended as per Equality Officer comments

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
31	The Wilts & Berks Canal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	The Council supports in principle the restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal.	None
Leisure Policies:													
32	Open Space	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	New housing developments need to provide safe, accessible and convenient open space for play and recreation.	Amended as per Equality Officer's comments
33	Leisure and Sports Facilities	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Existing leisure facilities will be protected and loss of a facility supported where it would not cause discrimination.	Loss should only be permitted where it will not result in discrimination
34	New Countryside Recreation Facilities	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	New facilities for informal countryside recreational activities will generally be supported.	Accessible for all
Historic Environment Policies:													
35	Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Designated and non-designated Heritage Assets should be conserved and enhanced.	None
36	Conservation Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development affecting a Conservation Area and/or its setting should conserve and enhance it.	None

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
37	Listed Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Alterations and additions to listed buildings should preserve and enhance them.	Amended per Equalities Officer comments
38	Archaeology & Scheduled Monuments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Our heritage is protected for all, providing insights into our culture and attracting tourism and other social and economic benefits for all.	None
Environmental Health Policies:													
24	Noise Pollution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development creating unacceptable noise levels must provide mitigation.	None
25	Air Quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development should minimise the impact on air quality.	None
26	Land Affected by Contamination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	New uses of land that is thought to be contaminated will be protected from the contamination by various means.	None
27	Waste Collection and recycling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Development must provide space for recycling and refuse containers.	None
Site Allocation policies:													
CP8a	Additional Site Allocations for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Site allocations for housing to meet the Vale's share of Oxford's unmet housing need.	None

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
CP 12a	Safeguarding of Land for Strategic highway Improvements within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This safeguards land for: Oxford Park & Ride at Cumnor; Oxford Park & Ride at Lodge Hill; Bus lane between Lodge Hill A34 interchange & Hinksey A34 Interchange; South Marcham Bypass.	None
CP 14a	Upper Thames Strategic Storage Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This policy updates the land safeguarded for a reservoir.	None
CP 15a	Additional Site Allocations for South East Vale Sub-Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Additional site allocations to cover the Vale's share of Oxford's unmet need.	None
CP 16a	Harwell Campus Comprehensive Development Framework	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Land is allocated for 1,000 houses to provide suitable accommodation for a live/work/play on the science campus, along with land to accommodate at least 5,400 net new jobs.	Would like to see the Design Guide referenced in the policy as well as supporting text

Local plan policies		Gender	Disability	Age	Race	Religion & Beliefs	Sexual Orientation	Gender Reassignment	Preg & Maternity	Marriage & Civil Partners	Rural Isolation	Summary of effect	Action Required
CP 16b	Didcot Garden Town	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This provides over-arching guidance on the design of development to occur at Didcot Garden Town through Figure 2:1 <i>Didcot Garden Town Masterplan Principles</i> . Further guidance will be provided by a future Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).	None
CP 18a	Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Highway Improvements within the South-East Vale Sub-Area	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	This safeguards: Access to/from A34 to Milton Park; New pedestrian and cycle bridge across A34 at Milton Heights.	The bridge needs to be accessible for wheelchair users. Could the word 'accessible' could be incorporated into this policy to reflect the need?
CP 19a	Re-opening of Grove Railway Station	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Land is safeguarded for re-opening the railway station at Grove.	If we are to re-open this station it will be important to ensure it is accessible for all.

**4. Have reasonable adjustments been made for people with disabilities to ensure they can use the draft strategy or policy? This might mean treating disabled people better than non-disabled people in order to meet their needs**

- No  
 Yes - please provide detail:

**Alternative format statement included on the back cover of the Local Plan documents:**

**Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio, email, easy read and alternative languages Please contact Planning on 01235 422600**

**5. Will the draft strategy or policy help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it e.g will the changes help to tackle prejudice and promote understanding between the different groups**

- No (*If you feel there is scope to improve how you foster good relations, amend you decision accordingly*)  
 Yes – please explain how

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

**6. Will the draft strategy or policy have an impact on any relevant human rights [You may find it helpful to view the human rights guide for public authorities on the intranet to help you decide]. Please identify which human rights have been considered?**

No human rights will be affected by the Local Plan.

Article 8 Respect for your private and family life, home and correspondence  
Article 10 Freedom of expression  
Article 14 Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms  
Protocol 1, Article 1 Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property

**What impact was identified?**

Was the impact identified positive (fulfilling, protecting, promoting, respecting)

**Please indicate the positive effect: .....**

**Was the impact negative** (removing, unjustifiably interfering with any human rights)?  
If so, please indicate how the strategy / policy will be amended to reduce or eliminate any negative impact

**7. Has there been consultation with relevant community groups to help inform this draft strategy or policy?**

Do you feel there are any groups that the draft strategy or policy significantly affects who you have not currently consulted? If yes, please contact the shared equality officer for advice (see page 2 for contact details).

- If not, please explain why:
  
- If yes, please list who you have consulted:

**8. Has the draft strategy or policy missed opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and positive attitudes?**

- No
- Yes – please outline the plans you have to address the missed opportunities (complete table below)

**Action plan for mitigating action or advancing equality of opportunity**

**Equalities Impact Assessment Consultation Comments Received and Proposed Changes**

**Introduction**

All comments received have been considered, which is demonstrated below, however to ensure the comments are appropriately addressed the context of the Local Plan Part 1 within the Development Plan needs to be understood.

Alongside the Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies, a Local Plan Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites will be published. Part 1 sets out the strategic policies for the District, where as Part 2 will set out more detailed policies to guide day to day decisions on planning applications. Reflecting the nature of the comments below, it may be appropriate to consider these matters within the Part 2 plan.

The Equality Impact Assessment supporting the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1 identified a number of actions to be taken forward for consideration in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2. Table 3 below sets out actions and provides a justification as to whether it is still necessary to take these forward in Local Plan 2031 Part 2 taking into account changes to national policy and legislation.

It should also be noted that the Council has published a Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that provides further detail to complement the strategic policies in the Part 1 plan (**Core Policies 37 and 38**). This SPD may address a number of the actions set out in the assessment to support the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 and may also cover the comments raised by the Equalities Officer during the stage of informal consultation on policies to be included in the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

Specifically, in regards to the comments made about accessibility, it is agreed the wording in the Part 2 plan can be strengthened to ensure this is appropriately considered within proposals. Table 2 below shows where a change has been made to a policy or supporting text following comments made by the Council's Equalities Officer during informal consultation. The table also shows where a change has not been made to a policy or supporting text at this stage, taking into account the Equalities Officer's comments. For instances where this occurs, a clear justification is provided or an action is noted to explore further, when considered alongside the responses to the public consultation and when refining the policies further for the Regulation 19 consultation (Publication Version) for the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

(Note: use this section below to explain anything that can't be simply amended and how it will be addressed)

**Table 2**

<b>Plan Policy/Section</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed changes</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>	<b>Action Yes/No</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Development Policy 15: Access</b>	N/A	It is important to remember that shared spaces can cause issues for people with visual impairment.	<b>To ensure that those with visual impairments are considered</b>	<b>Yes</b>	The supporting text of the policy has been amended to refer to the NPPF and the fact that it stresses the importance of the needs of people with disabilities.
<b>Development Policy 16: Transport Assessment &amp; Travel Plans</b>	N/A	Travel Plans should include accessible transport for those with disabilities.	<b>To ensure that those with physical disabilities are given additional consideration</b>	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	Whilst all comments and suggestions from the Equalities Officer have been considered as part of the Plan making process, in some cases it is deemed to be more appropriate for the comments to be considered in detail along with responses from the public

Plan Policy/Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
					consultation.
<b>Development Policy 17: Public Car Parking in Settlements</b>	N/A	Support should be given to creating more large spaces for parent child or mobility impaired spaces in addition to disabled badge holder spaces.	To support those needing extra space to get out of the car	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above
<b>Development Policy 12: Changes of Use of Retail Units</b>	N/A	The text should include that the impact on wheelchair users should be considered if shop size is reduced, and could we add a line about development proposals being accessible for all users.	<b>Equality issue.</b> The existing policy does not single out the impact on wheelchair users	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>Development Policy 13: Villages and Local Shops</b>	N/A	Could we add a line about development or extensions to village shops meeting the needs of people with disabilities or limited mobility.	<b>Equality issue.</b> The existing policy only specifies the needs of the local population and not specifically those members of the population with disabilities	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>Development Policy 29: Watercourses</b>	N/A	Could we add a line about improving accessibility for all, including those with mobility impairments.	To support those with mobility impairments	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>Development</b>	N/A	Policy should	To prevent	<b>To be</b>	As above.

<b>Plan Policy/Section</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed changes</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>	<b>Action Yes/No</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Policy 33: Leisure and Sports Facilities</b>		include that loss of facilities will only be allowed where the loss will not result in discrimination.	discrimination to those who can't travel to other facilities	<b>considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	
<b>Development Policy 34: New Countryside Recreation Facilities</b>	N/A	Could we add a line to say the new facilities should be accessible for all.	<b>To improve accessibility for those with mobility impairments</b>	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>CP16a: Harwell Campus Comprehensive Development Framework</b>	N/A	Would like to see Design Guide referenced in the policy as well as supporting text.	<b>To ensure the Design Guide is used</b>	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>CP18a: Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Highway Improvements within the South-East Vale Sub-Area</b>	N/A	The bridge needs to be accessible for wheelchair users. Could the word 'accessible' could be incorporated into this policy to reflect the need?	<b>To ensure that there is safe passage for wheelchair users</b>	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.
<b>CP19a: Re-opening of Grove Railway Station</b>	N/A	If we are to re-open this station it will be important to ensure it is accessible for all.	<b>To ensure disabled access</b>	<b>To be considered alongside public consultation responses</b>	As above.

Table 3 below shows how the relevant comments on Core Policies in the Part 1 plan, which could not be applied at that time due to predicted changes in legislation, were dealt with or are to be considered further in the preparation of Local Plan 2031 Part 2.

**Table 3**

<b>Plan Policy /Section</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed changes</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>	<b>Action Yes/No</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Core Policy 26</b>	All new homes designed for older people shall be built to current Lifetime Homes standards as a minimum	A percentage within all new developments in addition to new homes designed for older people.	<b>Equality issue.</b> Currently this won't take account of people purchasing a property whilst younger and staying in it until old age.	<b>No</b>	<b>Housing Standards Review - National Legislation:</b> The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013. A Technical Consultation was launched in September 2014. It is intended that standards relating to water efficiency, access (including Lifetime Homes) and security will be consolidated into the building regulations. The relevant legislative requirements are currently going through Parliament. It is expected that transitional arrangements for local authorities will be introduced in early 2015.
<b>Lifetime homes</b>	N/A	'Where possible residential development should also include wheelchair accessible homes in addition to lifetime homes'.	<b>Equality issue.</b> The draft design guide includes: Wheelchair accessible homes should be designed in accordance	<b>No</b>	The <b>Design Guide SPD</b> is due to be adopted and this is included as a requirement: <b>Principle DG65:</b> Inclusive Communities.  See comment above: <b>National</b>

Plan Policy /Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
			<p>with recognised guidance such as Wheelchair Housing Design Guide (Habinteg, 2006). These homes should be positioned in highly accessible locations. These should be in addition to lifetime homes.</p>		<p><b>Legislation:</b> The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.</p>
<p><b>Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness</b></p>	<p><b>Section 6.86</b> links to the Design Guide SPD</p>	<p>Ensuring accessible design to meet the needs of older people, people with disability parents and carers.</p>	<p><b>Equality issue</b></p> <p>The policy does not include a statement about ensuring accessible design to meet the needs of older people, people with disability parents and carers.</p> <p>Throughout the EIA we are suggesting that the plan will be beneficial to</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p><b>Principle DG38: Inclusive Design</b> addresses these issues.</p> <p>See comment above: <b>National Legislation:</b> The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.</p>

Plan Policy /Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
			all groups 'assuming' that good quality design and access is provided – this is the key.		
6.88	<b>Makes reference:</b> to producing the masterplan in consultation with stakeholders – on strategic and major development and any that contains housing for older people.	<b>Include:</b> in consultation with someone from the National Register of access consultants	<b>Equality issue</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Section 6.88</b> makes reference to collaboration with stakeholders, it does not list all stakeholders within this section and therefore it would not be appropriate to single out the National Register of access consultants for special mention.
<b>Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Statement: British Standard Code of Practice:</b> encourage development to meet the British Standards - BS8300:2009+ A1:2010 Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people.	<b>Equality issue</b> Only then can we ensure that buildings are truly accessible as the building regs are minimum access standards. If not included within the Plan cannot be enforced.		See comment above: <b>National Legislation:</b> The Government completed a Housing Standards Review in October 2013.
<b>Core Policy 38: Design Strategies for Strategic and Major Development Sites</b>	The policy has the following statement: contain 1. A masterplan which should - include a	Contain a Green Infrastructure framework to ensure that public and private open	<b>Equality issue</b>	<b>Yes</b>	We agreed that the word ' <b>accessible</b> ' could be added to this sentence as a minor modification.

Plan Policy /Section	Current	Proposed changes	Reason for change	Action Yes/No	Reason
	Green Infrastructure framework to ensure that public and private open space standards are met, relate well to each other and to existing areas and that the new spaces are safe, convenient and functional.	space standards are met, relate well to each other and to existing areas and that the new spaces are safe, convenient, <b>'accessible'</b> and functional.			