

Draft strategies/policies –

Draft strategy/policy being checked:

Draft Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Is this draft strategy/policy:

✓ **Vale only**

☐ **South only**

☐ **Joint across both councils**

Service team: Planning Policy

Officer completing this: Emma Wright

Once completed:

Date completed: 8/10/2021

Signed Emma Wright (Officer)

Signed Adrian Duffield ARD (Head of Service)

Signed Lynne Mitchell (Lynne Mitchell - Equalities officer)

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 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.

Lynne Mitchell (equalities officer)
Email: lynne.mitchell@southandvale.gov.uk
Telephone: 07598 545906

OUTLINE OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY / POLICY YOU ARE CHECKING:

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

Draft Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The aims and objectives of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are to add further detail to Local Plan policies and provide further guidance for developments, such as allocated sites. They can additionally provide guidance on particular, specific site issues, such as design.

This draft Dalton Barracks Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is focused on the Dalton Barracks Strategic Allocation, set out in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites (LPP2).

The aims and objectives of this SPD are to:

- supplement the adopted Development Plan (of most relevance to this SPD is the [Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031, Parts 1 and 2](#); and the Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Development Plan);
- set out what steps are needed in practice to deliver the Dalton Barracks Strategic Allocation;
- ensure a comprehensive approach to masterplanning the new housing; and
- help to achieve a high quality, sustainable new community that is founded on Garden Village principles.

As background, LPP2, forming part of the Development Plan, guides planning decisions in the Vale of White Horse District and was adopted in October 2019. It followed on from the Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (LPP1) which 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
- specify additional site allocations for housing.

This Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) specifically covers the Dalton Barracks draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – one of the additional site allocations in LPP2.

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

The draft SPD sets out what steps are needed in practice to deliver the Dalton Barracks Strategic Allocation. It could therefore have an impact on all those that live and work in the surrounding area. The main stakeholders are communities surrounding the Dalton Barracks site, and those with an interest in the area. These could include residents, local businesses, staff and partners. The SPD will provide helpful guidance for development on the Dalton Barracks site, which in turn will support/serve these stakeholders.

3. If the draft strategy/policy relates to an existing Council service/function, has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) already been completed on the service/function?

☐ No

✓ Yes – please list any issues/barriers identified within the assessment that your draft strategy needs to address:

Please see the [Equality Impact Assessment for Local Plan Part 2](#) – this assesses the impacts of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 policies (including Core Policy 8a: ‘Additional Site Allocations for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area’ which allocated the Dalton Barracks site). The impacts of the policies are assessed against ‘protected characteristics’. ‘Protected characteristics’ includes gender, disability, age, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership.

4. Does the draft strategy or policy have the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against certain groups in the community?

Please see table overleaf.

Equality group	Yes	No	If 'yes', please explain how the strategy/policy 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.	If 'No,' What existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? e.g. Will the service changes advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic? This means will they <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
People from ethnic minority groups		No		The draft SPD is not expected to create any barriers to participation for people in this target group. We are committed to making documents available in alternative languages if this is needed, with the aim of reducing barriers for people who do not have English as their first language.
People with disabilities (including carers)		No		The draft SPD commits to using digital methods of engagement alongside traditional methods. We will ensure that the consultation portal is as accessible and as easy to use as possible. We will achieve this by using clear language. We will also make hard copies of documents available upon request.
Men or women (including pregnant women, women on maternity and transgender people)		No		The draft SPD is not expected to create any barriers to participation for people in this target group and therefore it is not considered that it will cause a negative impact to, or discriminate, this group.

Equality group	Yes	No	If 'yes', please explain how the strategy/policy 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.	If 'No,' What existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? e.g. Will the service changes advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic? This means will they <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Gay, lesbian or bisexual people		No		The draft SPD is not expected to create any barriers to participation for people in this target group and therefore it is not considered that it will cause a negative impact to, or discriminate, this group.
People from different religions/beliefs (including people without a religion/belief)		No		The draft SPD is not expected to create any barriers to participation for people in this target group and therefore it is not considered that it will cause a negative impact to, or discriminate, this group.
Older or younger people		No		The draft SPD consultation will use written methods of engagement alongside digital methods. We send out letters to those who request it and have no other means of engaging with us. We provide hard copies of documents upon request and consultation documents are distributed to deposit locations. For younger people, the impact is positive, as young people are likely to engage with our online methods of communication, using the Council's social media channels.

Equality group	Yes	No	If 'yes', please explain how the strategy/policy 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.	If 'No,' What existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? e.g. Will the service changes advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic? This means will they <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
People living in rural areas		No		The Vale of White Horse, the area in which this SPD is focused, is a rural district. All documents are available on our websites and hard copies of consultation documents are provided in specific deposit locations, including libraries across the district.
Local Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations		No		<i>If your draft strategy/policy doesn't relate to the VCF sector, please state that here.</i> The SPD does not specifically relate to the VCF sector. However, the draft SPD is not expected to create any barriers to participation for people in this group and therefore it is not considered that it will cause a negative impact to, or discriminate, this group.

5. 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:

The draft SPD has been written using plain English and in a style that is easy to read and navigate. We will ensure that the consultation portal and survey are as accessible and as easy to use as possible. We will achieve this by using clear language. We will provide hard copies at specific deposit locations. We will also make hard copies of documents available upon request, as well as copies in Easy Read, Braille, large print and audio upon request. We will provide contact details should any assistance be required in accessing or replying to the draft SPD and supporting material.

6. Have there been any equality related recommendations in the area that your draft policy/strategy is covering which have arisen from, for example, internal/external audits or scrutiny reports?

No. Please see the [Equality Impact Assessment for Local Plan Part 2](#). Table 2 in this document summarises comments relating to equality issues raised for LPP2 and explains the actions taken to address the concerns raised. There were no issues raised in relation to Core Policy 8a of LPP2, which allocated the Dalton Barracks site.

7. 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 your decision accordingly*)

✓ Yes – please explain how:

The draft SPD will help to foster good relations by demonstrating that the Council is engaging with the community in the preparation of guidance in relation to site allocations.

8. Will the draft strategy or policy protect and promote human rights? [You may find it helpful to view the human rights guide for public authorities on the intranet to help you decide]

☐ No – please explain why and how you will amend the draft policy/strategy to eliminate the effect (if you think the effect cannot be eliminated but can be justified, please also give details):

✓ Yes – please list relevant articles and briefly explain how you think your policy/strategy demonstrates compliance:

The relevant human rights in this draft SPD consultation are as follows:

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.

No human rights will be affected by the draft SPD. Human rights will continue to be taken account of during the planning process.

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

Yes.

If yes, please list who you have consulted:

A range of key stakeholders with links to the SPD area have been consulted with to help inform the draft SPD. These include Wootton and St Helen Without Parish Councils and Oxfordshire County Council. Additionally, wide public consultation took place for Local Plan Part 2, including with Vale Disability Access Group and the aforementioned key stakeholders, to establish the principle of development on this site. A summary of the consultation processes, consultees, comments and Council responses can be found in the Council's [Local Plan Part 2 Consultation Statement](#).

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).

N/A

10. 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)

The Council will continue to encourage the participation of all sectors of the community in the preparation of this SPD.

Action plan for mitigating action or advancing equality of opportunity

N/A