

Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening

Assessor(s) Name(s):	Oliver Boulter Team Leader, Policy and Conservation
Directorate:	Economy & Environment
Date of Completion:	March 2014

Name of Policy Proposal

The adoption of the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Aims, Objectives and Expected Outcomes:

Different groups of people within the local community have different needs and aspirations as to how they want their community to develop in the future. This would include what services, facilities and local infrastructure are important to them. Given this, the vision statement of the Parish Plan is "To identify and promote the current and future needs of the community, to enable such needs to be met through dialogue, attraction of funds and development; whilst retaining the local distinctiveness, facilities and sense of community which currently make the villages so popular."

The outcome is a rolling plan of delivery in the action plans.

The final stage of the process is to submit the plan to the Isle of Wight Council so that it can be considered for formal adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Whilst the document can formally be considered in the planning process once adopted as a material consideration, any proposal that requires planning permission within the Niton & Whitwell area will still be judged on its own planning merits.

- This is a new policy proposal
- ~~This is a proposed change/review to/removal of an existing policy/strategy/service/council-function (check whether the original decision was equality impact assessed)~~

Key Questions to Consider in Assessing Potential Impact

Will the policy have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics or other reasons that are relevant issues for the local community and/or staff?	No
Has previous consultation identified this issue as important or highlighted negative impact and/or we have created a “legitimate expectation” for consultation to take place? A legitimate expectation may be created when we have consulted on similar issues in the past or if we have ever given an indication that we would consult in such situations	No
Do different groups of people within the local community have different needs or experiences in the area this issue relates to?	No
Could the aims of these proposals be in conflict with the council’s general duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not?	No
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how services or a council function/s is/are delivered?	No
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	No
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment of resources?	No
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities?	No
<p>If you answer Yes to any of these questions, it will be necessary for you to proceed to a full Equality Impact Assessment after you have completed the rest of this initial screening form.</p> <p>If you answer No to all of these questions, please provide appropriate evidence using the table below and complete the evidence considerations box and obtain sign off from your Head of Service.</p>	

Protected Characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reasons
Age			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p> <p>However, there are aspects of the document that could contribute to the opportunities for equality for this group and for this reason these have been noted. This is in respect of improving accessibility through car sharing and a community bus, and the introduction of a footpath between Niton & Whitwell.</p>
Disability			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p> <p>However, there are aspects of the document that could contribute to the opportunities for equality for this group and for this reason these have been noted. This is in respect of improving accessibility, addressing road safety and access to affordable housing.</p>
Gender Reassignment			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered</p>

				as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.
Marriage & Civil Partnership			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p>
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p>
Race			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p>
Religion / Belief			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered</p>

				as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.
Sex (male / female)			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p>
Sexual Orientation			X	<p>The document will have no impact on this group.</p> <p>The status of the guidance is such that higher level policy and legislation is also required to be considered as part of the decision making process. Additionally, the guidance has been the subject of a conformity check with the Policies of the Island Plan Core Strategy which has concluded that the content of the guidance is in general conformity.</p>

Are there aspects of the proposal that contribute to or improve the opportunity for equality?	Yes
<p><i>If answered Yes, describe what these are and how they may be promoted or enhanced</i></p> <p>The following aspects have been taken from the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan:</p> <p>Action 5.1 identifies support for car sharing and the need for a community-led scheme to pursue this. Action 5.2 identifies the availability of a community bus. Action 7.1 identifies a lack of children's recreational area and facilities. Action 7.2 identifies that team games and other physical activities for the younger generation are less than adequate. Action 13.2 identifies that the Parish Council is committed to achieving a footpath between Niton and</p>	

Whitwell.

Although the document will have no impact on the protected characteristics as identified above, these aspects could contribute to the opportunities for equality and for this reason have been noted above.

Evidence Considered During Screening

Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan has been through local public consultation and adopted by the Parish Council. The plan was also subject to further consultation as part of its formal adoption as a SPD. This statutory process requires a six-week period of public consultation.

Demographic Data

The council has [ward profile information](#) for the ward of Chale, Niton and Whitwell, based on the 2011 Census. Information from the census is also available for the [parish](#) of Niton and Whitwell. This data shows a population of some 2,082 for the parish of Niton and Whitwell, with 40% being of pensionable age (60 years plus).

Mosaic data for the ward of Chale, Niton and Whitwell shows that 42% of residents consider themselves to be residents of isolated communities and 32.3% consider themselves to be active elderly people living in a pleasant retirement location.

The census shows that within the parish of Niton and Whitwell there are 184 people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot, and 276 people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little. It is considered that the improvements sought through the plan to footpath links and accessibility could benefit those with a long-term health problem or disability.

Head of Service
Sign off:



Advice sought from
Legal Services
(Name)

Justin Thorne

Date

20th May 2014