

Dacorum BC Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Template

Policy / service / decision

Paradise Design Code – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Description of what is being impact assessed

What are the aims of the service, proposal, project? What outcomes do you want to achieve? What are the reasons for the proposal or change? Do you need to reference/consider any related projects?

Stakeholders; Who will be affected? Which protected characteristics is it most relevant to? Consider the public, service users, partners, staff, Members, etc

It is advisable to involve at least one colleague in the preparation of the assessment, dependent on likely level of impact

In April 2021, Dacorum was one of 14 local authorities nationally to be awarded DLUHC pilot funding, to develop locally led design codes to steer design quality in emerging developments. This programme was supported by DLUHC's newly established Office for Place as part of the Phase 1 of the National Model Design Code Testing Programme.

The SPD sets out a framework of design requirements for new development in the Paradise and Wood Lane area, which is currently allocated in the Site Allocations DPD (Reference MU/3). This SPD supports the policies within the existing Core Strategy (2013), and builds upon the strategic design principles set out in the Borough-wide Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD (2020).

This document also supports the delivery of the corporate objectives and priorities for the Council, including the emerging Hemel Place Strategy, by steering design quality of emerging development in the Hemel Hempstead town centre. The principles and codes were also informed by the principles established in the Hemel Garden Communities Spatial Strategy, to ensure coherence with the wider ambitions of the town.

Once adopted the Paradise Design Code will provide clarity about design expectations to applicants, and is expected to enhance the character of the local area and ensure future design quality. The document has been prepared with the needs of design teams and officers in mind, and will be used by applicants, planning officers, statutory consultees and the wider community.

By setting out requirements for development to be of the highest possible design quality, the Paradise Design Code SPD will have a positive impact on communities within both new and existing neighbourhoods within and around the area.

Evidence

What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service/decision might impact on protected groups?

(include relevant national/local data, research, monitoring information, service user feedback, complaints, audits, consultations, CIAs from other projects or other local authorities, etc.). You should include such information in a proportionate manner to reflect the level of impact of the policy/service/decision.

The CIA prepared to support the draft version of the Paradise Design Code SPD was approved on the 21st June 2022. This CIA was compared with the associated CIA for the Hemel Place Strategy, which was prepared in May 2022, and the CIA prepared for the Hemel Garden Communities project. Both projects have informed the development of the content of the SPD.

The CIA prepared to support the development of the draft Paradise Design Code SPD has been reviewed to reflect the outcomes of the statutory public consultation on the document. Therefore this current CIA represents an updated version, which will inform the adoption version of the SPD.

The Paradise Design Code SPD has an indirect effect on individuals – it is through the application of the SPD during the planning application and decision making process that any impacts will directly occur, and therefore this assessment cannot be definitive on the impact on individuals with protected characteristics. However, a number of documents have been reviewed whilst preparing this assessment, in order to understand the broad range of potential impacts on individuals with protected characteristics the adoption of the SPD may create.

The engagement and consultation work undertaken to support and inform this document has ensured that all feedback from residents, businesses and organisations has been considered, and has informed the design codes as they are set out within the SPD. Effective community engagement advances equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not by ensuring all sections of society are able to influence the content of the proposals.

Once the SPD is adopted it becomes a material consideration, and will therefore ensure that the recommendations from respondents to engagement and consultation activities are delivered in new development.

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? *If you have not consulted other people, please explain why? You should include such information in a proportionate manner to reflect the level of impact of the policy/service/decision.*

The statutory public consultation on the SPD took place between 12pm on the 28th October 2022 and 11:59pm on the 28th November 2022. The consultation sought views and opinions on a full draft version of the SPD. Everyone who was on the Council's Strategic Planning consultation database at the time of the consultation start date were notified of the consultation by e-mail, or by post (over 9,000 notifications in total). This includes all statutory bodies that are required to be consulted, general and other bodies, and the wider community.

'General' bodies include voluntary bodies, and bodies which represent the interest of ethnic or national groups, religious groups and disabled people in the area. 'Other' bodies are those bodies not specified in Government regulations, however they are known interested parties, groups and organisations who may have an interest in planning policy matters, and can represent the interests of individuals/groups with protected characteristics.

Full details of engagement methods, how responses were invited and the overall levels of response are set out in the Paradise Design Code SPD - Consultation Statement. This statement also sets out how the final version of the SPD has been modified to reflect the responses received.

The statutory public consultation follows an extensive programme of engagement which took place in the summer and autumn of 2021. The purpose of this was to inform the full draft SPD. This engagement utilised a wide range of methods and tools. This ensured that information was accessible to a variety of groups in the community, and improved opportunities for individuals to become involved in the process and to better influence outcomes. Full details of this are also set out in the Consultation Statement.

Analysis of impact on protected groups (and others)

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires Dacorum BC to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service/decision will achieve these aims. Using the table below, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of these using the evidence that you have collated and your own understanding. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, **before** you have implemented any mitigation.

- *The PCs of Marriage and Civil Partnership and Pregnancy and Maternity should be added if their inclusion is relevant for impact assessment.*
- *Use "insert below" menu layout option to insert extra rows where relevant (e.g. extra rows for different impairments within Disability).*

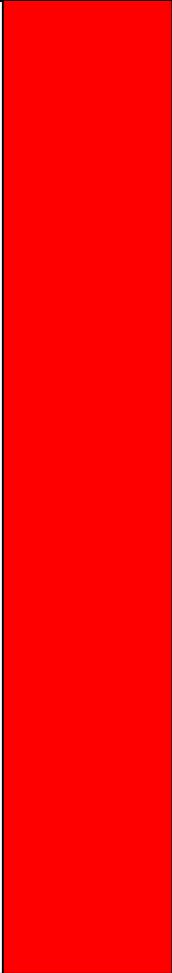
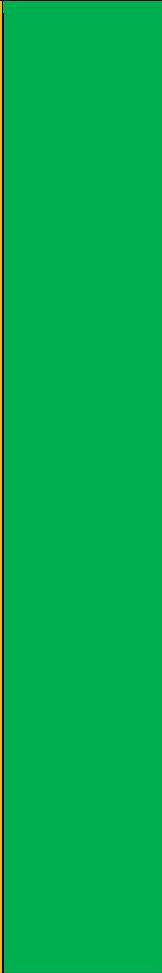
Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative impact / outcome	Neutral impact / outcome	Positive impact / outcome
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<i>What do you know? What do people tell you? Summary of data and feedback about service users and the wider community/public. Who uses / will use the service? Who doesn't / can't and why? Feedback/complaints?</i>				
Age	<p>The provisions established in the SPD to support healthy lifestyles, active travel and social interaction should indirectly benefit all age ranges, however this will particularly benefit older people where accessibility is a greater barrier and social isolation is more prevalent.</p> <p>The impact of the promotion of mixed-use development has been considered on residents; therefore, the SPD makes provisions to ensure vehicle servicing is separate from pedestrian access points, that servicing must not compromise public realm or residential amenity, and that residential vehicular access and parking should be positioned away from the public realm to ensure these areas remain traffic free. These measures reduce potential negative impacts from mixed-use development, and provide positive outcomes regarding reduced congestion, increased pedestrian accessibility and improved air quality, measures that will particularly benefit younger and older people.</p> <p>Specific proposals that provide places for play, particularly facilitating informal and 'play on the way' opportunities, will positively benefit children who live and travel through the area.</p> <p>Increased emphasis on creating places with a safe and secure movement network, which minimises the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles can have particular benefits for older people and younger people, by facilitating and promoting cheap and independent active travel.</p>	□	□	☒
Disability (physical, intellectual, mental)	<p>The provisions established in the SPD to support healthy lifestyles, social interaction and active travel will particularly benefit people with disabilities where accessibility is a greater barrier, and social isolation is more prevalent.</p>	□	□	☒

<p>Refer to CIA Guidance Notes and Mental Illness & Learning Disability Guide</p>	<p>Increased emphasis on creating places with a safe and secure movement network, which minimises the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles can have particular benefits for people with disabilities and health conditions, by facilitating and promoting cheap and independent active travel.</p> <p>As discussed previously the potential negative impacts on delivering a mixture of residential and employment uses on the public realm have been addressed with measures that will benefit people who have mobility and/or sensory impairments. Reducing congestion and car dominance in the public realm will benefit those who are more vulnerable to adverse effects of poor air quality particularly individuals with particular health conditions.</p>			
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>Research supports that exposure to high levels of air pollution causes negative impacts during pregnancy. As discussed the SPD introduces measures to reduce congestion and car dominance in the public realm, which will benefit pregnant and breastfeeding people who are more vulnerable to adverse effects of poor air quality.</p> <p>Proposals to create accessible connections within a mixed-use area have been found to indirectly benefit outcomes for pregnant people. For example, research has identified that the risk of developing postpartum depression (in urban settings) is reduced in high quality urban settings comprised of mixed-use and walkable neighbourhoods¹.</p>	□	□	☒
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>It is considered that the adoption of the Paradise Design Code SPD will not have direct material impacts on this protected characteristic. All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>Proposals to improve community safety and promote social interaction may indirectly benefit individuals within the LGBTQ+ community including those at any stage of their gender reassignment process.</p>	□	☒	□

¹ After adjusting for age, education level, marital status, and income inequality. <https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-021-04056-1>
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<p>Race and ethnicity</p>	<p>It is considered that the adoption of the Paradise Design Code SPD will not have direct material impacts on this protected characteristic. All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>Proposals to improve community safety and promote social interaction may indirectly benefit those from minority ethnic communities.</p>	□	⊗	□
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>It is considered that the adoption of the Paradise Design Code SPD will not have direct material impacts on this protected characteristic. All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>Proposals to improve community safety and promote social interaction may indirectly benefit those from minority religious communities.</p>	□	⊗	□
<p>Sex</p>	<p>All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>Proposals to improve community safety and promote social interaction will contribute to the achievement of gender inclusive urban spaces. Incorporating design factors such as high quality lighting and appropriate overlooking contributes to reducing violence and fear of violence, and will ensure mobility and access to the public realm is not curtailed.</p>	□	□	⊗
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>It is considered that the adoption of the Paradise Design Code SPD will not have direct material impacts on this protected characteristic. All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>Proposals to improve community safety and social interaction may indirectly benefit individuals within the LGBTQ+ community.</p>	□	□	□
<p>Not protected characteristics but consider other factors, e.g. carers, care leavers, veterans, homeless,</p>	<p>All members of the community should benefit from strengthened design requirements.</p> <p>The SPD promotes the creation of flexible and mixed-use spaces, which make use of higher density urban and accessible neighbourhoods. It is considered that this ambition will have no direct impact on people who share protected characteristics, but could have indirect benefits for all</p>	□	□	□

<p>low income, loneliness, rurality etc.</p>	<p>groups with restricted mobility, including those living in low-income households.</p> <p>There is extensive research that supports the role of nature in benefitting personal wellbeing. The SPD establishes an open space strategy, which will provide residents and employees within the site with access to a variety of green spaces. It is not expected that increasing access to nature will have a positive impact on all, particularly those with health conditions and those who have been negatively impacted by a lack of access to nature previously.</p> <p>Supporting environments which makes it easier for all people to move around will help to advance equal opportunities between those with and without protected characteristics. A genuine choice of transport modes should consequently help reduce congestion and improve air quality and public health. Also by improving the network for pedestrians and cyclists, the SPD will facilitate cheap and independent active travel for individuals impacted by reduced access to mobility, particularly individuals on low incomes or facing income insecurity.</p> <p>Introducing safety measures within the public realm, including the provision of adequate lighting, and overlooking has the potential to benefit users who are more likely to experience violence or feelings of unsafety when travelling.</p> <p>The SPD has made provisions for the food bank provided by the charity DENS working in partnership with the Trussell Trust. This is an essential service for individuals and families facing food insecurity.</p>			
<p>Negative impacts / outcomes action plan</p> <p>Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative impacts / outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.</p>				

Action taken/to be taken <i>(copy & paste the negative impact / outcome then detail action)</i>	Date	Person responsible	Action complete
Not applicable.	Select date		<input type="checkbox"/>
If negative impacts / outcomes remain, please provide an explanation below.			
N/A			
Completed by (all involved in CIA)	Keeley Mitchell – Assistant SPAR Officer		
Date	27/02/2023 <i>(V1 document 14/06/2022)</i>		
Signed off by (AD from different Directorate if being presented to SLT / Cabinet)	Alex Robinson – Assistant Director (Planning)		
Date	27/02/2023 <i>(V1 document 21/06/2022)</i>		
Entered onto CIA database - date	TBC		

To be reviewed by (officer name)	
Review date	