

**ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF THE  
DRAFT ROCHDALE BIODIVERSITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

**OCTOBER 2007**

## **ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

This document is an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft Rochdale Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and has been prepared by the Council. The attached Pro-forma sets out how equality impacts have been assessed.

### **Context**

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA) requires the council to carry out race equality impact assessments on new and proposed policies. The council's race equality scheme, as adopted 21 March 2005 lays down the council's commitment to undertake race equality impact assessments.

The Equality Standard for Local Government also requires equalities impact assessments to be evidenced in order to achieve progress against the levels contained in the Standard. The council has committed itself to implementation of the Standard across 5 areas of equality: gender, religion, disability, race, age and sexuality. This means that the council will ultimately be required to undertake equalities impact assessments that address all of these equalities areas.

**Appendix 1 Equality Impact Proforma**

<b>Department</b>	Strategic Planning	<b>Section</b> Planning and Regulation	<b>Person responsible for the assessment</b>	Emily Barker	
<b>Name of the Policy to be assessed</b>	Rochdale Biodiversity and Development SPD	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2007	<b>Is this a new or existing policy</b>	New, but relates to UDP policy
<b>1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy</b>	<p>The purpose of this supplementary planning document (SPD) is to provide guidance on the role of biodiversity within development and the determination of planning applications. The document will provide guidance on good practice on the enhancement of biodiversity in development through design and construction.</p> <p>The primary aims of the Biodiversity and Development SPD are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key biodiversity interest in Rochdale Borough</li> <li>• Indicate key sites for and spatial distributions of biodiversity</li> <li>• Set out the planning policy context and framework for biodiversity</li> <li>• Outline potential threats and opportunities for conservation and enhancement</li> <li>• Illustrate best practice for identifying, protection, mitigation and enhancement of biodiversity through the development planning process</li> <li>• Signpost sources of further advice and support to assist in ensuring a robust and positive approach to identifying and designing for biodiversity interests</li> </ul> <p>The aim of the Consultation draft is to engage with the residents and the local community, business, landowners, development interests and others to ensure that their views are considered before the document is finalised.</p>				
<b>2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain</b>	<p><i>Objective 1: Create good designs principles in pursuits of sustainable development</i></p> <p><i>Objective 2: Provide additional guidance for potential developers on the council's approach to biodiversity and development</i></p> <p>:</p>				

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<b>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way</b>	Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups,
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		Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, RMBC Officers. Better quality information submitted with planning applications to assist the development control processes and the implementation of UDP policy.	
<b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?</b>		To ensure no net loss of ecological interest or assets in the borough as a result of development, and that opportunities are taken to enhance ecological interest within development proposals where possible. The SPD also seeks to encourage better public enjoyment of the natural environment through better access for all ages and abilities to natural greenspace.	
<b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b>		Unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances. Complexity of topic.	
<b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy</b>	Private Individuals, Community and Interest Groups, Stakeholders, Land Owners, Developers, Councillors, RMBC Officers.	<b>7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?</b>	Strategic Planning. Development Control.
<b>8. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on racial groups.</b>		<b>No</b>	This SPD provides guidance on UDP policies for biodiversity including: G/NE/1 (Part One Policy) Nature Conservation, NE2 Designated sites of Ecological and Geological / Geomorphological Importance NE/3 Biodiversity and Development NE/4 Protected Species G/NE/5 (Part One Policy) Landscape and Woodlands NE/8 Development affecting Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows NE/9 Protection of Woodlands NE/10 New Woodland Planting LT/7 Rochdale Canal G/8 ABCD Greenspace Corridors RE/2 Countryside Around Towns . It does not have any differential impact

			on this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

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<b>9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest It does not have any differential impact upon this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
<b>10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due disability</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
<b>11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
<b>12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their age</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
<b>13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group

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What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		
<b>14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to them having</b>	<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and

<b>dependants/caring responsibilities</b>			enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
<b>15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their offending past</b>		<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
<b>16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to them being transgender or transsexual</b>		<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
<b>17. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due issues surrounding poverty</b>		<b>N</b>	This SPD provides guidance on the role of biodiversity within development including opportunities for the protection and enhancement of ecological interest. It does not have any differential impact on this equalities group
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			

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<b>18. Could the differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy</b>		<b>NO</b>	The protection and enhancement of ecological interest throughout the borough is a key component of sustainable development and ensuring that long term economic, social and environmental health of Rochdale.
<b>19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason</b>		<b>NO</b>	<b>Please explain for each equality heading (question 8-16) on a separate piece of paper</b>
<b>20. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>21. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>22. Date on which Partial or Full impact assessment to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>			

Signed (completing officer) Emily Barker

Signed (Lead Officer) Paul Simpson