

ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE
DRAFT RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE IN NEW HOUSING**

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

DECEMBER 2007

ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

This document is an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft Recreational Open Space in New Housing 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

Department	Strategic Planning	Section Planning and Regulation	Person responsible for the assessment	Andrew Eadie	
Name of the Policy to be assessed	Recreational Open Space in New Housing SPD	Date of Assessment	23 rd November 2007	Is this a new or existing policy	New, but relates to UDP policy
1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy	<p>The purpose of this supplementary planning document (SPD) is to set out the requirements in respect of amount and type of recreational open space facilities to be provided in new housing developments, and also the mechanisms for calculating and managing contributions made by developers towards off-site provision.</p> <p>The primary aims of the Recreational Open Space in New Housing SPD are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clarify the requirements for recreational open space provision in new housing developments. • To outline the mechanisms for collecting and managing contributions received from developers in respect of recreational open space. • To improve the quality and quantity of recreational open space in Rochdale Borough. <p>The aim of the Consultation draft is to engage with stakeholders, including community groups, interest groups and house-builders, to ensure that their views are considered before the document is finalised.</p>				
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain	<p>Objective 1: To achieve the right kind of recreational open space facilities in new housing developments, in terms of type and size of facility, location and design.</p> <p>Objective 2: To clarify the circumstances under which on-site provision will be required, and when contributions to off-site provision would be more appropriate.</p> <p>Objective 3: To ensure that appropriate contributions are received, managed and directed towards addressing the quantity and quality needs identified by the appropriate strategies.</p>				

3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way		The residents of Rochdale Borough, in particular children and young people. Everyone should benefit from the improved provision of recreational open space facilities, including children's play facilities, in terms of improved quantity of provision, more appropriate location and design as appropriate, and improved general quality of sports facilities and open spaces.	
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?		Clear and effective mechanisms in place for directing contributions received for recreational open space to areas of need as identified by Council strategies. Improved quantity and quality of recreational open space across the Borough.	
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?		Failure to implement correctly. Unexpected 'loopholes' in the mechanisms outlined. Lack of manpower to ensure procedures are adhered to and the system monitored.	
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy	RMBC Officers and members, Rochdale residents, local sports and community groups	7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?	Strategic Planning. Development Control. Environmental Management.
8. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on racial groups.		Y	N
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The policy relates to improving the quantity and quality of recreational facilities across all parts of the Borough in line with requirements outlined by other strategies, and all provision will take account of any local circumstances which may be relevant.			

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9. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact due to gender		Y	N
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The recreational facilities which will be improved will be of benefit to all genders.			

10. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact due to disability	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The SPD provides specific guidance in respect of ensuring that facilities provided in respect of it are fully accessible.			
11. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The SPD will ensure the provision and improvement of recreational facilities which will benefit all residents of Rochdale regardless of sexual orientation.			
12. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their age	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The guidance contained within the SPD is specific in requiring improved recreational facilities for all age ranges.			
13. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The SPD will lead to improved provision of recreational open space, both in terms of quality and quantity, and this will benefit all residents of the Borough, regardless of religious belief.			

14. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? By providing improved recreational facilities, the SPD is likely to benefit all residents of the Borough, including those having dependents / caring responsibilities.			
15. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to their offending past	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The improved recreational facilities which will result from this SPD will benefit all residents of the Borough, regardless of whether or not they have offending pasts.			
16. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due to them being transgender or transsexual	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The recreational facilities which will result from the SPD will be open and accessible to all residents of the Borough.			
17. Are there concerns that the policy <i>could</i> have a differential impact on people due issues surrounding poverty	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? The provisions of the SPD will create improved recreational open space provision, both in terms of quality and quantity, throughout the Borough, and this increased accessibility will allow access to facilities for a greater proportion of the population than may previously have been the case because of cost of travel.			

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18. Could the differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy	YES	NO	The SPD will improve accessibility to recreational facilities for all residents of the Borough.
19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the	YES	NO	

grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason					
20. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment	YES	NO	21. If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA	YES	NO
22. Date on which Partial or Full impact assessment to be completed by 11 December 2007					

Signed (completing officer) Andrew Eadie

Signed (Lead Officer) Paul Simpson