

Main Issues Report

Local Development Plan 2

Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment

November 2016



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (E&HRIA) is to help ensure that the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2(LDP2) does not discriminate. It considers the potential consequences of policies and functions on identified equality groups. This (E&HRIA) should be explicit in identifying potential impacts on particular groups and assist in producing a Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) which does not disadvantage particular equality groups. The Main Issues Report (MIR) which it accompanies is a crucial initial planning stage in the preparation of LDP2.
- 1.1.2 This document, which forms the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (E&HRIA), outlines the process that will be undertaken in relation to the Main Issues Report for LDP2. The consultation responses received for this (E&HRIA), will inform a further E&HRIA for the Proposed Plan stage. The (E&HRIA) process runs in parallel with the Local Development Plan process.
- 1.1.3 It should be recognised that production of the MIR is also a stage in a complex planning process which the Council is required by legislation to follow. The parallel planning process, which involves 11 stages, will ultimately produce the (LDP2) for East Renfrewshire. This planning process has been clearly set out in the Councils Development Plan Scheme (2016).
- 1.1.4 It was concluded that even in the event there were no adverse impacts on identified equality groups, through screening and scoping, that it would be both consistent and comprehensive to carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment at both key planning stages, i.e. both at this (MIR) stage and subsequent 'Proposed Plan' stage scheduled for autumn 2017.
- 1.1.5 This Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the East Renfrewshire, Local Development Plan 2, Main Issues Report. The service which has produced the document, the lead officer and date of the assessment are as specified below.

Name of Function or Policy	East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2 – Main Issues Report
Lead Service taking primary responsibility for this impact assessment	Environment (Planning, Economic and City Deal)
Names of Officer	Gillian McCarney
Officer Designation	Planning and Building Standards Manager, Environment (Planning, Economic and City Deal)
Date of Impact Assessment	November 2016

2 SCREENING/SCOPING

- 2.1.1 A screening and scoping of the document was initially considered to ascertain if it would have significant effects on protected characteristics and whether there is evidence that particular groups would be likely to be affected by the document.
- 2.1.2 As part of the screening & scoping consideration for a Equalities Impact Assessment, it was concluded that despite the MIR being an early stage in preparation of LDP2, it would be both consistent and comprehensive to carry out a Equalities Impact Assessment both at this MIR and the forthcoming Proposed Plan stage scheduled for autumn 2017.
- 2.1.3 The MIR is the starting point in the preparation of Local Development Plan2. It is the main consultative stage and is intended to stimulate discussion. It concentrates on key changes that have happened since the adoption of LDP1 in June 2015.
- 2.1.4 The MIR identifies 8 main issues with options, setting out preferred options. This is to ensure that all reasonable options are explored before the Council forms a firm view for the 'Proposed Plan' stage. Detailed policies and proposals will be set out within the Proposed Plan.

3 AIM & PRIORITY OF THE POLICY

- 3.1.1 The LDP is the spatial interpretation of the aims and aspirations of East Renfrewshire Council and strongly aligns with other key Council strategies.
- 3.1.2 The aims and priorities of this project are:
- To inform the content of the Proposed Plan (LDP2) for East Renfrewshire, the next planning phase;
 - To engage, consult and highlight key changes from previous plans and present the main options for the future development of the area;
 - To give genuine options for discussion along with a preferred strategy and ask for views on these and other issues;
 - To identify main proposed land use changes within the Spatial Development Strategy and identify other key issues; and
 - To set out general proposals for development in identifying where development should and should not be carried out.
- 3.1.3 All representations made over the consultation period of MIR will be considered fully and shape the direction, policies and proposals put forward in the Proposed Plan.
- 3.1.4 The MIR is structured around the following key topics
- Issue 1: Vision and Objectives
 - Issue 2: Managing and Enabling Growth
 - Issue 3: Affordable and Particular Needs Housing
 - Issue 3.1: Affordable Housing Needs
 - Issue 3.2: Ageing Population and Particular Housing Needs
 - Issue 4 Economic Opportunities

- Issue 4.1: City Deal
- Issue 4.2: Tourism and the Visitor Experience
- Issue 5: Supporting our Town and Neighbourhood Centres
- Issue 6: Tackling Climate Change (Adaptation/Mitigation)
- Issue 7: Health and Wellbeing
 - Issue 7.1: Green Space and Green Networks
 - Issue 7.2: Community and Sports Facilities
 - Issue 7.3: Education
- Other Issues:8
 - 8.1: Placemaking and Quality of Place
 - 8.2: Sustainable Transport Network and Active Travel
 - 8.3: Employment Land

3.1.5 Certain issues have been highlighted within this EIA, as they are considered to be of particular relevance to some Equality- Protected Characteristics (Equality Groups).

Issue 1: Vision and Objectives

LDP1 Strategic Aim

“To foster a rich and diverse environment and promote and manage land use change for the benefit of the local community and economy in a manner which is sustainable.”

3.1.6 The meaning and purpose of this aim remains relevant and consistent with the core aims of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). The MIR recommends that this aim is carried forward unchanged in LDP2.

3.1.7 The MIR recommends that the current vision of LDP1 should be replaced as follows:

MIR Preferred Option

LDP2 Vision

“ By focusing on sustainable economic growth, placemaking and climate change East Renfrewshire will be a vibrant, desirable and healthy place to live and work now and into the future”

3.1.8 The MIR recommends the consolidation of the 5 strategic objectives of LDP1 as follows:

3.1.9 Strategic Objectives

Preferred Option (LDP2)

- 1. *Promote the delivery of sustainable economic growth by providing a framework to help meet the need for local jobs, housing, facilities and services which are accessible by a choice of transport modes and which have access to high quality physical and digital infrastructure.***
- 2. *Build stronger more sustainable communities and places through the enhancement of the natural and built environment creating opportunities to promote health and well-being, community engagement, learning and social inclusion.***
- 3. *Promote sustainable development and action on climate change to ensure a reduction in carbon emissions and the move towards a low carbon economy.***

3.1.10 Within the MIR Vision it is envisaged that LDP2 will help to enable

- Healthy happy and active residents
- Thriving and well-connected communities and neighbourhoods
- Thriving rural communities
- Attractive countryside
- Opportunities for local food growing
- Key Tourist destination
- Attractive and Vibrant Town Centres in the day and evening
- More housing in our Town Centres
- More walking, cycling and riding routes
- Better rail and bus services
- Network of connected greenspaces
- Joining our Eastwood and Levern Valley communities
- Homes for all
- Adaptable homes to meet people's changing needs through life
- Energy efficient housing and buildings
- More things for young people to do
- Inspiring physical environments for schools and early learning and childcare facilities
- High quality leisure, cultural and community facilities
- Strong and sustainable local economy
- Good range of jobs
- Spaces for businesses to grow
- High quality digital technology
- Attractive place for investors
- Innovative and high quality design
- Reduced pollution and waste
- More renewable energy technology

Issue 2 – Managing and Enabling Growth

Development Strategy Options

3.1.11 Two development strategy options have been identified to explore how and where future development can best be accommodated. The key features of each option, areas of commonality and where different approaches are promoted are clearly shown in the MIR.

3.1.12 The 2 options are as follows:

- Option 2A – Consolidation, Regeneration and controlled edge of settlement growth
- Option 2B – Consolidation and Regeneration

3.1.13 Option 2A will deliver increased numbers of affordable and particular needs housing in areas where supply is currently limited.

Preferred Option

3.1.14 The progressive plan led approach of Option 2A is our preferred option as it would deliver the most effective strategic approach for LDP2. This option would ensure a phased and managed approach to growth and development and would improve housing options for all sections of the community.

Issue 3 Affordable and Particular Needs Housing

3.1.15 Issue 3.1: Affordable Housing Needs

Preferred Option

3.1.16 The preferred option is to continue with the application of the current affordable housing policy. However, options will be explored to increase the percentage of affordable housing required on specific sites and to allocate sites for 100% affordable housing. Innovative methods of delivery will also continue to be explored.

3.1.17 Issue 3.2: Ageing Population and Particular Housing Needs

Preferred Option

3.1.18 The preferred approach is to amend Policy SG4 as follows:

- Require that new development delivers a supply of accessible and adaptable new build housing for households with particular needs including smaller and family sized accommodation;
- Require a percentage of dwellings on all proposals to meet standards for accessibility and adaptability specifically being single storey, own door properties suitable for occupation by a wheelchair user or easily adapted for occupation by a wheelchair user;
- Require developers to provide statements regarding how proposals will meet standards for accessibility and adaptability and meet the needs of elderly and disabled people;
- Consideration should be given to the location of new housing to allow for access to services, facilities and public transport; and,

- Prepare Supplementary Guidance to expand upon these aims and link with outcomes of emerging LHS.
- The policy and percentage target for the Proposed Plan will be further shaped by the outcomes of the emerging LHS and HNDA.

Issue 4: Economic Development

Issue 4.1: City Deal

3.1.19 During (2014/15) the Council confirmed participation within the £1.13billion Glasgow City Region City Deal initiative. City Deal will enable the Council to carry out £44m of major infrastructure projects, which aim to drive innovation and growth through support of key sectors and address challenges in the local labour market. This is focused on six key projects.

Preferred Option

3.1.20 In recognition of the importance of the City Deal Initiative it is proposed that a new policy is included within LDP2 to reflect City Deal projects. City Deal projects will also be clearly identified on the Proposals Maps that support LDP2.

Issue 7: Health and Wellbeing

3.1.21 Ensuring a Healthier Lifestyle

3.1.22 As health is a cross cutting theme it is affected by all of the key issues included in this MIR for e.g. through access to housing and employment opportunities, greenspace, services and facilities, and prioritising sustainable transport modes like walking and cycling.

3.1.23 The MIR encourages all future proposals to prepare a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to support their application. This approach links strongly with the Council's prevention agenda.

Issue 7.1: Green Space and Green Networks

Preferred Option

3.1.24 We will update the Green Network and Environmental Management Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and provide more detail in relation to open space provision and design guidance. The intention is that Local Greenspace Strategies will be prepared which will focus activity in key parts of the Council area and will seek to reduce health inequalities, improve access to greenspace and align with other key areas of investment and funding opportunities.

3.1.25 Opportunities for green network enhancement throughout the Council area will continue to be developed.

3.1.26 We will also:

- Identify the existing green network assets which should be safeguarded – with a focus on the settlement-level green networks, but also recognising important connections within the wider East Renfrewshire and Clydeplan regional context.

- Identify local green network priorities and opportunities for green infrastructure delivery at a site level as part of clearly stated site requirements in development briefs and design frameworks, including for City Deal areas.
- Set out design standards for green infrastructure in new developments.

Issue 7.2: Community and Sports Facilities

Preferred Option

- 3.1.27 To continue to protect existing facilities but to review Policy D5 and establish a new policy on sports facilities. This policy will also consider limited new development to allow for appropriate enhancements to existing sporting facilities.
- 3.1.28 We will also consider the preparation of guidance in relation to the provision of future sports facilities in collaboration with other Council departments and the Culture and Leisure Trust and Sportscotland. This will assist in directing both development contributions and sources of external funding as they become available.
- 3.1.29 LDP2 will also look at options:
- To provide a new modern Leisure Centre in the Eastwood area;
 - To provide a joint gym/library facility in the Newton Mearns area; and
 - To redevelop Thorntree Hall, Thornliebank as a community hub.

Issue 7.3: Education

Preferred Option

- 3.1.30 To continue to monitor the demand for education places and increased pressure on the educational estate and take appropriate action to meet the needs of our residents. The future planning capacity of all our educational establishments and resultant school estate requirements must respond to increases in resident population and changes in local or national educational policy or legislation, such as a reduction in maximum class sizes and/or changes to early learning and childcare.

4 AREAS OF RELEVANCE

- 4.1.1 The Equality Act (2010) requires that Councils need to:
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment & victimisation
 - b) Promote equality of opportunity between the protected areas of equality known as the nine 'Protected characteristics'
 - c) Foster good relations between each characteristic.
- 4.1.2 The 'Protected Characteristics' are Age, Disability, Gender & Gender reassignment, Pregnancy & Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Marriage & Civil Partnership (purely in relation to relation to eliminating unlawful discrimination in employment).

4.1.3 The LDP2 and in particular the (MIR) are considered to be neutral with neither positive nor negative impacts for the majority of the protected characteristics outlined above. Furthermore certain protected characteristics are considered to be of particular relevance namely Age & Disability.

5 IMPACTS ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

5.1.1 It is considered that there are no adverse impacts on the protected characteristics particularly identified within paragraph 4.1.2 above, indeed the vision & objectives and associated positive aspects for both the Age and Disability characteristics are highlighted below.

5.1.2 A ✓ depicts a positive impact.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC AGE	ASPECTS OF (LDP2) (MIR)	PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC DISABILITY
✓	Healthy happy and active residents	✓
✓	Thriving and well-connected communities and neighbourhoods	✓
✓	Attractive and Vibrant Town Centres in the day and evening	✓
✓	More housing in our Town Centres	✓
✓	More walking, cycling and riding routes	✓
✓	Better rail and bus services	✓
✓	Network of connected greenspaces	✓
✓	Homes for all	✓
✓	Adaptable homes to meet people's changing needs through life	✓
✓	Energy efficient housing and buildings	✓
✓	More things for young people to do	✓
✓	Great schools	✓

6 DATA - UTILISED (RELIABILITY & VALIDITY)

6.1.1 National Guidance

6.1.2 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, Climate Change Act 2009, Circular 6/2013: Development Planning, Scottish Planning Policy 2014, National Planning Framework 3, Various Circulars Policy Statements and Planning Advice Notes (PANS).

6.1.3 Regional Guidance

6.1.4 Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, Strategic Development Plan (2012), Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, Strategic Development Plan 2, (Clydeplan)- (Proposed Plan)- currently at Examination by Scottish Government.

6.1.5 Local Guidance

6.1.6 The Councils current and emerging Local Housing Strategy (LHS), Single Outcome Agreement (SOA 2013-2016) & Outcome Delivery Plan (2014-2017) and Local Transport Strategy (LTS), 'City Deal' agreement with Government.

6.1.7 An LDP2 'Key Issues' questionnaire and 'Call for sites' consultation was undertaken during April/May 2016. The questionnaire sought comments over four key themes. Responses helped to inform the MIR. A Monitoring Statement (MS) accompanies the MIR. It keeps it under review by presenting information on the physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the area and the impact of policies and proposals. This statement has assisted in the identification of the key issues.

6.1.8 The reliability and validity of these sources is sound and comes from a well-established and recognised range of sources, whether Central or Local Government or Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the National records of Scotland (NRS).

7 CONSULTATION (SPREAD & METHODS UTILISED)

- 7.1.1 At an early stage of developing this new Plan and to help us decide how best to commence and what form the MIR should take, the Planning Service consulted on what the 'Key Issues' are for the area and how these could be addressed. In tandem with this a 'Call for Sites' exercise was also undertaken.
- 7.1.2 The Pre-MIR stage included all stakeholders on the Development Plan database. This is an extensive consultation database which has been built up over many years. It provides a comprehensive list of groups & organisations. The current listing is set out within Appendix 1 of the Development Plan Scheme (2016). The Development Plan Scheme is updated annually and aims to be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible to maximise the range and number of stakeholders in order to capture different views, opinions and ideas. The results of this initial stage assisted with the preparation of our MIR and this Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 7.1.3 All the stages both Pre-MIR and MIR involved liaison with all Council Services and consultation has and will continue to take place with many stakeholders including members of the public, interest groups, Community Councils, the Scottish Government and the Key Agencies. The Key Agencies are the statutory consultees which are Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Transport Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and Scottish Water (SW), Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the Health Boards and the Health & Social Care Partnership CHCP. In addition a Member Officer Working Group will also contribute to the LDP2 process as will engagement with the Planning Community Forum.
- 7.1.4 The Council aims to try to reach as many and varied a range of stakeholders as possible. Appendix 1 of the Development Plans Scheme (2016) provides as comprehensive and inclusive list of stakeholders as possible, whether they are community, voluntary interest groups, business or other public or private sector organisations and multi-varied groups. This is carried out through a range of methods, including direct notification, availability within Council Offices, libraries as well as on the Council web-site, twitter, Facebook and 'citizen space' pages on the Council website. The LDP quarterly newsletter also highlights and publicises LDP2 at the various key stages, including (MIR) stage.

8 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1.1 No further action required at this stage. This Equalities Impact Assessment is a key part of the process of preparing the MIR and the results of the consultation on both the MIR and this EIA will help to inform the LDP2 Proposed Plan and accompanying EIA.

9 TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1.1 The schedule and timetable for LDP2 is as set out within the Development Plans Scheme (2016) and accompanying Participation Statement. The Proposed Plan is scheduled for publication in autumn 2017.

10 METHODS OF PUBLICATION

- 10.1.1 The LDP2 (MIR) and this associated EIA will be published and consulted on through a range of methods.
- 10.1.2 The consultation period for will run for 10 weeks until January 2017. The documents can be accessed through various methods:
- By going online at www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ldp2
 - By visiting the 'Citizen Space' pages on the Council's website;
 - By visiting your local library
 - On twitter or Facebook
 - Visit us at Spiersbridge Business Park
 - Call us on 0141 577 3001
 - Send us an email to ldp@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
 - By visiting us at one of our Drop in Information Sessions (details to follow);
- 10.1.3 Posters, leaflets and articles will be displayed and posted in community halls, local notice boards and newspapers.

11 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1.1 A comprehensive consideration of the results of the MIR and (EIA) will be carried out and will inform and influence both the forthcoming LDP2 Proposed Plan and its associated (EIA).

12 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 12.1.1 Whilst it is not a requirement to carry out a Human Rights Impact Assessment, human rights issues have been considered alongside equalities as the objectives of both are often complimentary.
- 12.1.2 Human rights include: right to life, freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, right to liberty and security, freedom from slavery and forced labour, right to a fair trial, no punishment without law, respect for your private and family life, home and correspondence, freedom of thought, belief and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, right to marry and start a family, protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms, right to peaceful enjoyment of your property, right to education, right to participate in free elections.
- 12.1.3 Many of these rights cannot be influenced through the development plan process and it is considered that this land use planning document does not impinge on any of these rights.

13 OVERALL COMMENTS & DATE OF REVIEW

- 13.1.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment runs in tandem with the MIR and is part of the process which informs and shapes both the LDP2 Proposed Plan and its associated EIA. The LDP2 Proposed Plan and associated EIA are scheduled for autumn 2017.