

# Equality Impact Assessment Screening Opinion

Draft North Lowestoft Heritage  
Action Zone Design Guide  
Supplementary Planning Document

Published December 2019



## Introduction

1. It is the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to undertake an Equality Impact Analysis at the time of formulating a decision, drafting a report, designing or amending a policy. This will ensure that the Council is considering and taking positive action where possible to promote access to services for all their communities, including their wider communities. The Equality Impact Assessment Screening Assessment will assess whether there is any impact upon any of the groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act, which are listed in the table below. If an adverse impact upon any of these groups is identified then a full Equalities Impact Assessment will be required.
2. The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone covers the historic High Street and Scores area of Lowestoft, as well as the adjoining coastal strip of land. East Suffolk Council has appointed consultants Place Services to prepare a design guide for the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) covers the HAZ area plus a further area of the Power Park to the south. It is intended that this design guide will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.
3. The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide SPD divides the area into five distinct areas: High Street and Historic Core; Whapload Road; Power Park; Historic Parklands; The Scores. The SPD provides a detailed description of each character area. It also includes detailed guidance for new development and the public realm in each character area, changes and alterations to existing buildings and shopfronts.
4. The Design Guide will be used to help determine planning applications for new developments within the Heritage Action Zone alongside the Waveney Local Plan and national planning policy. It will be a material consideration when deciding planning applications as well as providing useful guidance for developers and architects in designing schemes in the area, as well as for changes and alterations to existing properties. The Design Guide can also provide technical information to feed into other strategies and plans for the area. The North Lowestoft HAZ Design Guide SPD will help to deliver Waveney Local Plan policies, which have already been subject to EqlA screening. The relevant policies include WLP2.1 (Central and Coastal Lowestoft Regeneration), WLP2.2 (Power Park), WLP2.5 (East of England Park), WLP2.9 (Historic high Street and Scores Area), WLP8.37 (Historic Environment), WLP8.38 (Non-Designated Heritage Assets), WLP8.39 (Conservation Areas), WLP8.40 (Archaeology).

## Screening of impact on different groups

	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Likely Impact</b> (positive and/or adverse)
a	Age (Includes safeguarding issues)	Improvements to the public realm will improve access and navigability, which will benefit the elderly and those with dementia.
b	Religion or belief	No impact.
d	Disability (Physical, sensory, learning, mental and physical health)	Improvements to the public realm will improve access and navigability, which will benefit those with a disability.
e	Race	No impact.
f	Gender	No impact.
	Gender reassignment	No impact.
g	Sexual Orientation	No impact.
i	Pregnancy & Maternity (or Paternity)	No impact.
j	Married and Civil Partnership	No impact.

## Consultation and Monitoring

A	What evidence or data has been collated or used to support the completion of this Equality Impact Analysis?	There has been engagement with the following in the production of the SPD: Heritage Action Zone Management team; economic regeneration; Great Places Project and Cultural Capacity Coordinator; Suffolk County Council highway authority; Historic England; development management; design and conservation; Lowestoft Town Council and members of the public.
B	Details of engagement.	Engagement took the form of a site meeting with the Heritage Action Zone Management Team, design and conservation officer, Historic England, the Town Council and a development management officer. There was a stakeholder meeting including those listed

		in part A (above), as well as elected members. Lastly, there was a public exhibition.
C	Details of consultation with statutory partners.	The document includes information gathered during consultation with the County Highway Authority and Historic England.
D	Details of published documents.	The HAZ Design Guide has been produced using information gathered from Historic England as well as the Local Plan. A Consultation Statement is also published alongside the Draft SPD which shows how informal stages of consultation have informed the SPD.
E	Details of monitoring	The HAZ Design Guide will be monitored as part of the overall Heritage Action Zone work programme. This is based on national and local indicators, which include engagement of the community, young people and volunteers. The communications plan for the project targets all stakeholders within the HAZ boundary to ensure community enablement and benefit. Monitoring is carried out annually and with an end of project report.

## Languages and other observations

A	Whether any information or outcome relating to the policy, project, initiative or action is to be presented to the public in a different language or form and how it is proposed to do this.	The document will be published on the Council's website and as a hard copy as part of a six-week period of formal consultation. The document may be requested in a different language. When such requests are received the Customer Services Team will be involved with ensuring this request is actioned.
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## Proposed changes

Any changes or adjustments made to the SPD as a result of completing the EqIA.
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None at this stage, although changes to the document may be necessary in the light of responses to the consultation.
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Is the policy, project, initiative or action subject to equality monitoring?
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No.
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## Conclusion

5. No negative impact upon any group with protected characteristics was identified and therefore a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.