

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Opinion

Cycling and Walking Strategy

October 2021



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 East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy identifies potential cycling and walking opportunities across the District. The strategy focuses on the identification of opportunities to provide new cycling and walking infrastructure rather than the maintenance of existing infrastructure. The East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy is not an SPD but it provides context and information to support detailed infrastructure proposals and inform decision making to support cycling, walking and equestrian use.
3. The Cycling and Walking Strategy is divided into three main chapters.
4. 1: Introduction. This chapter explains the purpose of the Cycling and Walking Strategy. It also explains how the Cycling and Walking Strategy was prepared and how it will be implemented.
5. 2: Policy Context. This chapter describes the national and Local Plan policies that inform the preparation and delivery of the Cycling and Walking Strategy.
6. 3: Recommendations. This chapter identifies key cycling and walking routes that should be delivered. This chapter includes information about the following key routes:
 - Key Corridors
 - Ipswich to Melton Key Corridor
 - Ipswich to Felixstowe Key Corridor
 - Felixstowe Internal Routes Key Corridor
 - Lowestoft Key Corridor
 - Lowestoft to Hopton Key Corridor
 - Lowestoft to Kessingland Key Corridor
 - Bungay Key Corridor
 - Leisure Route

Site Allocations Recommendations

Community Recommendations.

7. The Cycling and Walking Strategy includes reference to the following policies at the national, county and local, or District level.

National Level

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

District Level

The Cycling and Walking Strategy will help to implement policies contained in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans, all of which have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment screening. The following Local Plan policies will be implemented by the Cycling and Walking Strategy:

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2020) Policy SCLP7.1: Sustainable Transport

Waveney Local Plan Policy (2019) policy WLP8.21: Sustainable Transport

Neighbourhood Plan policies may contain policies about the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure.

8. The Equality Act 2010 lists nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. East Suffolk Council has added a tenth characteristic, socio-economic deprivation, in addition to the nine protected characteristics listed in the legislation. This reflects the pockets of deprivation that exist across East Suffolk.

Screening of impact on different groups

	Groups	Likely Impact (positive/negative/no impact)	Reason for your decision
a	Age (Includes safeguarding issues)	Positive	The provision of improved cycle routes and footpaths will benefit those of different ages, including those who are elderly who will be

			<p>better able to use improved footpaths and cycle lanes.</p> <p>Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council’s customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation materials will be available to people of all ages and therefore will not discriminate in terms of age.</p>
b	Disability	Positive	<p>The provision of improved cycle and pedestrian routes will benefit those with a disability, who will be better able to use improved footpaths and cycle lanes.</p> <p>Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council’s customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those with a disability.</p>
C	Gender reassignment	No impact	<p>The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate those who have undergone gender reassignment. Consultation</p>

			documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who have undergone gender reassignment.
D	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those who are married or in a civil partnership. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are married or in a civil partnership.
E	Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those who are pregnant or on maternity leave. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's

			customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are pregnant or on maternity leave.
F	Race	No impact	The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those from different racial backgrounds. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those from any racial background.
G	Religion or Belief	No impact	The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those from different religions or beliefs. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its

			<p>publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different religious beliefs.</p>
H	Sex	No impact	<p>The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore discriminate against those of different sexes. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different sexual identities.</p>
I	Sexual orientation	No impact	<p>The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those of different sexual orientations. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may</p>

			involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different sexual orientations.
J	Socio-economic deprivation	No impact	The Cycling and Walking Strategy provides guidance about improved cycling and walking infrastructure. It will therefore not discriminate against those who are experiencing social and economic deprivation. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation.

Consultation and Engagement

The initial consultation ran for seven weeks from 19th October to 7th December 2020. The Cycling and Walking Strategy was published at the same time as consultations on the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the draft Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) SPD. Those on the Council's planning policy consultation database were contacted directly by email or letter. Included in the consultation were:

- Suffolk County Council
- Highways England
- Sport England

- Local Cycling groups
- Town and Parish Councils
- Sustrans
- Cycling UK

The consultations were further advertised using posters, a press release, and social media posts. Over 800 individual responses were received.

Hard copies of the document were also made available free of charge by contacting the Planning Policy and Delivery team as the usual locations for viewing documents were closed to the public during this time, due to the pandemic.

A second public consultation will take place from 1st November to 10th January 2022 on the Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy. This Cycling and Walking Strategy consultation will be held at the same time as the Sustainable Construction SPD and Affordable Housing SPD (note the consultations on the Sustainable Construction SPD and Affordable Housing SPD have an earlier end date end date of 13th December). Consultation letters and emails covering all three consultations will be sent to consultees on the Council's planning policy mailing list. Posters and press releases covering all three consultations will take place, and information will be contained in the Council's Planning and Building Control Newsletter. The planning policy mailing list includes Town and Parish Councils, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Councillors, neighbouring district Councils including the Broads Authority, developers, agents, landowners, business associations, civic societies, infrastructure providers), and members of the public.

Copies of consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, contact details have been provided in publicity material along with an offer of assistance in accessing the consultation material, should anyone be unable to view the documents in any of the ways set out above.

In view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has set out measures to enable safe participation in the consultation and to ensure that those who wish to engage in the consultation are not disadvantaged. For those unable to view the consultation documents online, in libraries or in the Customer Service Centres, hard copies will be made available on request (free of charge) by post. In view of these measures the Council does not consider that this consultation will disadvantage any of the groups covered by this EQIA screening exercise.

Presentation in Different Languages

As part of a ten-week period of formal consultation, the document will be published on the Council's website, with hard copies available on request for those unable to access it online. 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.

Proposed Changes

The Council will analyse responses received during the public consultation and will make any appropriate changes as a result of comments received.

Conclusion

This EQIA screening exercise shows that the Cycling and Walking Strategy will not negatively impact upon any protected group or those experiencing socio-economic deprivation. Therefore, a full EQIA assessment is not considered necessary.