



GUILDFORD BOROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009 – 2026: EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Equalities Impact Assessment scoping exercise considers the possible impacts of the draft Guildford Borough Sustainable Community Strategy on specific groups within the community. The consideration of equalities issues throughout the preparation of the strategy will assist in avoiding inadvertent negative or discriminatory consequences for particular sections of the community.

Section	Policy and Partnerships, Corporate Development	Officer responsible for the screening/scoping		Stephen Benbough Policy and Partnerships Officer	
Name of Policy to be assessed	Guildford Borough Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 - 2026	Date of Assessment	May 2009	Is this a proposed new or existing policy/procedure/ practice?	New statutory policy document to replace Community Plan
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/procedure/practice?		The strategy sets out how the Council and its partners intend (through the Local Strategic Partnership) to enhance the long-term economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough. It aims to show how the quality of life of residents will be improved, including for the disadvantaged and vulnerable. The strategy includes a vision setting out the key priorities for the Borough for the period up to 2026. This was developed in consultation with stakeholders and residents and will enable partners to channel resources and coordinate actions towards meeting the aspirations of the local community.			
2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the policy/procedure/practice? Please explain.		The strategy includes 16 key objectives against which progress in achieving the vision will be measured. Detailed actions to deliver the priorities, together with associated targets, will be included in a separate shorter-term delivery plan to be produced by the Local Strategic Partnership.			

3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?		All those living, working or visiting the Borough and, in particular, the disadvantaged and vulnerable.	
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/procedures/practice?		To achieve the vision and deliver the key objectives set out in the strategy.	
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?		The commitment of partners towards the achievement of the vision and key objectives, including through the allocation of resources. External factors, such as the general economic climate and state of the housing market, will also impact on the delivery of several key objectives.	
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?	All those living, working or visiting the Borough and the public, business and voluntary sectors. There is a particular emphasis on improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged and vulnerable.	7. Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy?	Guildford Local Strategic Partnership
8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups? What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	No	None of the high level priorities are likely to have a differential impact according to race. The strategy would be made available in other languages on request.	
9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender? What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	No	None of the high level priorities are likely to have a differential impact according to gender.	
10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to disability? What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	No	The strategy contains specific objectives to improve access to employment, services and facilities and to support more elderly and vulnerable people in living independent lives. The strategy also seeks to ensure that better outcomes are achieved for vulnerable young people. The Strategy would be made available in other formats on request.	
11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to sexual orientation? What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	No	None of the high level priorities are likely to have a differential impact according to sexual orientation.	

<p>12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their age?</p> <p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	No	The strategy contains specific objectives to improve access to employment, services and facilities and to support more elderly and vulnerable people in living independent lives. The strategy also explicitly seeks to ensure that better outcomes are achieved for vulnerable young people and those living in the more deprived parts of the Borough.
<p>13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their religious belief?</p> <p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	No	None of the high level priorities are likely to have a differential impact according to religious belief.
<p>14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities?</p> <p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	No	The need for increased support for carers to enable more elderly and vulnerable people to live independently is recognised in the strategy.
<p>15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them have an offending past?</p> <p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	No	The strategy aims to reduce crime and the associated delivery plan may include specific targets for reducing re-offending.
<p>16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them being Transgender or transsexual?</p> <p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	No	None of the high level priorities are likely to have a differential impact due to a person being transgender or transsexual.
<p>17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy/ procedure/practice?</p>	No	No differential impacts have been identified in the strategy. All potential impacts will be re-appraised as part of the development of the associated delivery plan.
<p>18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?</p>		Not applicable
<p>19. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above groups?</p>	Yes	One of the primary purposes of the strategy is to enable unmet needs and inequalities in the Borough to be identified and addressed.

20. Does differential impact or unmet need cut across the equality strands (e.g. elder BME groups)?		See 19 above.
21. If yes, should the full EIA be conducted jointly with another service area/contractor/partner/agency?		Not applicable at this stage. Any Equalities Impact Assessment on the delivery plan would be undertaken in conjunction with all Local Strategic Partnership partners.
22. Is there a missed opportunity to improve your business in relation to any of the policies, procedures or practices to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality?	No	As stated above, the strategy aims to address inequalities in the Borough. Consultation on the strategy may raise other issues for incorporation within the final version.
23. Should the policy proceed to a full equality impact assessment? If No, are there any changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?	No	<p>The strategy is a high level document setting out the priorities for the Borough for the period up to 2026. One of the primary purposes of the strategy, as demonstrated by the key objectives, is to reduce inequalities and to enable the success of the local economy to be shared more widely. It also seeks to build increased community cohesion. Equalities issues are central to the draft strategy, particularly in relation to disadvantaged and vulnerable, elderly and young people. It is not considered that the high level priorities in the strategy will have negative or discriminatory consequences for particular sections of the community. However, improvements to the strategy relating to the equalities agenda may arise through the consultation exercise.</p> <p>A delivery plan, including specific actions, will be developed to achieve the key objectives set out in the strategy. There is likely to be a greater need for a full Equalities Impact Assessment on this plan to ensure that the strategy is delivered in a non-discriminatory way. This will be appraised at the appropriate time.</p>

Signed
(completing officer) **Date** May 2009

Signed
(Head of Section) **Date**

Countersigned
(Corporate Diversity/Diversity/Policy Team) **Date** June 2009