

Community Impact Assessment (CIA) - Initial Screening

Service/ Programme Area:	Regeneration – Planning Policy
Date of assessment:	July 2020
Lead CIA Officer:	Amelia Lucas

The initial screening is a quick and easy process. It should:

- Identify if the proposal requires a CIA
- Provide justification for why a CIA is not going to be completed

The purpose of community impact assessment is to have “due regard” to the equality impact of proposals on protected groups, identifying if this impact is disproportionate and how it will be reduced, eliminated or mitigated. Community impact assessment, together with other sources of evidence, should inform decision-making.

You must consider the following [protected groups](#) and indicate overleaf if a full community impact assessment is required:

- **Age**
- **Disability**
- **Gender**
- **Gender reassignment**
- **Marriage and Civil Partnership**
- **Pregnancy and maternity**
- **Race**
- **Religion and belief**
- **Sexual orientation**

You may also want to consider other groups, including; people on a low income, carers, ex-offenders, veterans, refugees and people seeking asylum, gypsies and travellers, where appropriate.

If you are unsure about any areas, you should undertake more research before you decide whether or not a full CIA is required, but this must be done **BEFORE a decision is made**. You should return the screening form as soon as possible indicating that you are undertaking more research.

The findings of the initial screening **MUST** be included within the report for decision and this document attached as evidence of your consideration of potential impact on communities.

1. Title(s) of proposal(s)	Is a CIA required? Yes or No
Statement of Community Involvement Update	No

2. Where you have identified that a CIA is NOT required, please detail below how you arrived at this decision
<p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) aims to increase public involvement in planning processes in accordance with Government and council objectives. It sets out who will be involved, by what method, and at what point in the process of document production or in the determination of planning applications. The SCI was adopted in 2010.</p> <p>Coronavirus (covid-19) and the government’s recent response to this (including lockdown measures, social distancing, and staying at home as much as possible) has implications for planning, including engaging the public during the plan making and planning application process.</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance has recently been revised in light of the covid-19 pandemic and now requires temporary amendments to be made to an authority’s SCI to ensure that the plan making process is able to continue to engage with the community, by means which are reasonably practicable during the pandemic.</p> <p>The amendments proposed in relation to the covid-19 pandemic include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Documents are not required to be put “on deposit” (to reflect recent changes to legislation) ii) Public/stakeholder meetings may not be able to be held iii) 1:2:1 discussions may have to be held over the telephone or online iv) Posters may not be appropriate v) Consultation games may not be appropriate vi) Planning for real exercises may not be able to be held or may have to be held virtually

- vii) Removal of the requirement to post site notices for planning applications (to reflect recent changes to legislation)
- viii) Meetings of the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel to be held virtually to ensure the continuation of the planning application process (to reflect recent changes to legislation).

Other changes proposed as part of this update to the SCI include:

- i) The use of social media (eg Facebook and Twitter) as an additional means of consultation
- ii) Newspaper notices are no longer proposed as a means of consultation (in accordance with legislation)
- iii) The inclusion of an additional paragraph about the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, its purpose and how consultation will be carried out.

The changes largely focus around recent changes in legislation and also the availability of, and people's use of, the internet. In their justification and explanation for the changes in relation to documents "on deposit", the government did not foresee "any significant impact on the private or voluntary sector".

Some people may be disproportionately negatively affected due to digital exclusion, however this should be temporary as it would be due to the covid-19 pandemic and would not be standard practice. It is also very difficult to mitigate against this impact due to the pandemic making online options the only alternative choice at the current time. Those that are most likely to be digitally excluded are likely to be older people, BAME people including travellers, some young people, people on low incomes (cost of broadband, lack of computers or tablets or smart phones and can't use library computers) and some disabled people. However, at the same time the use of social media may mean that some people are more encouraged to engage that haven't previously.

Whilst the alternatives are restricted to online options it is highly unlikely the internet would be the single method of consultation at any one time with other methods undertaken including posting letters to residents and stakeholders. This would ensure that all relevant residents and bodies are always made aware of the consultation and how best to access further information at any given time.

The greater reliance on using online methods of communication could have a negative impact on people with protected characteristics but we will also use other methods of communication to reduce this impact. We will review this screen at a later date, after the consultation and when Covid restrictions have reduced allowing a wider range of engagement tools to be used, to ensure there is no disproportionate negative impact on any particular group of people with protected characteristics.

3. Once form is completed, please sign and date below

Name	Signature	Date
Amelia Lucas		22 July 2020

All initial screenings and CIAs are reported to Corporate Management Team. Please forward your completed form to [Equalities&Cohesion Team](#) in Policy and Strategy as soon as possible. It will then be confirmed (with Legal Services) that either a full CIA or no further actions are required.