

## EqlA #64

The details of an EqlA and its associated actions, actions and attachments.

### 1. Project/Activity Information

Collection name	Planning
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed	Statement of Community Involvement and Local Plan Preparation
EqlA type	Project
Current status	Completed
Service Area	Planning
Purpose of project	To define how the Council will involve residents in plan making and consideration of planning applications and the preparation of the Local Plan, to engage with a wide range of residents and any other interested parties and to take into account their views regarding policies and future development
Who is the project intended to benefit?	Residents that would like to be involved in the Local Plan process and comment or review planning applications.
What outcomes should be achieved	The planning team, residents and any person with an interest in future policies and development in North Tyneside is able and has the opportunity to obtain accessible information and make their views known.

### 2. Groups Impacted

**Does the project / activity impact on the following groups?**

**Service Users**

No

**Carers or family of service users**

No

**Residents**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of residents impacted?**

1001 +

**What is the estimated impact level on the residents?**

Low

**Additional comments for residents**

This EqIA relates to engagement on proposals for development and plan making. As a result, involvement and engagement in that process may be impacted but there are unlikely to be any direct medium or high impacts.

**Visitors**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of visitors impacted?**

251 - 1000

**What is the estimated impact level on the visitors?**

Low

**Additional comments for visitors**

Visitors in this context assumed to be attendees at public engagement events.

**Staff**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of staff impacted?**

1 – 20

**What is the estimated impact level on the staff members?**

Low

**Additional comments for staff members**

Visitors in this context assumed to be attendees at public engagement events.

**Partner organisations**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of partner organisations impacted?**

Unknown

**What is the estimated impact level on the partner organisations?**

Low

**Additional comments for partner organisations**

There will be organisations that are interested in the creation of a new Local Plan for the Borough.

### **3. Evidence gathering and engagement**

**What evidence has been used for this assessment?**

**Internal evidence**

North Tyneside engagement guidance

Demographic information for the borough

The planning team maintains a list of planning consultees including a range of stakeholders and other contacts with an interest in plan making in the Borough

**External evidence**

Census Data

Government Guidance on Plan Making  
Planning Advisory Service on Consultation and Engagement  
The Town and Country Planning Regulations

**Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this activity?**

Yes

**If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?**

Input from the Policy, Performance and Research team and Communities and Inclusion.

**Is there any information you don't have?**

No

**All evidence attachments that have been added to this EqlA**

There are no attachments for this EqlA

**All evidence links that have been added to this EqlA**

Link		
<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000022/">https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000022/</a>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making</a>	<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/welcome-plan-making-support">https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/welcome-plan-making-support</a>
<a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents</a>	<a href="https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1114/population">https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1114/population</a>	

**4. Impact on groups with different characteristics**

**Will the project/activity positively or negatively impact on each of the following groups**

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Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Age	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - People of working age or those that have carer responsibilities are likely to have limited time availability for in-person engagement. - Older people are more likely to need information in accessible formats and are less likely to have access to/use the internet and social media Potential Positive Impacts - The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Disability	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - Based on previous experience of communication and engagement we understand that people with a range of disabilities such as mobility and sensory are more likely to have accessibility needs and those who are neurodiverse or have learning needs are more likely to have communication and accessibility needs. Potential Positive Impacts - Well-planned engagements including the use of both online and in-person methods will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Gender reassignment	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - The current climate surrounding issues of gender reassignment, which may make those in the process of or who have completed gender reassignment less likely to participate in in-person engagement activities, as they may feel concerned about harassment or prejudice. Potential Positive Impacts - The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No
Pregnancy and maternity	Yes	Yes



Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - Those experiencing pregnancy and maternity may be less likely to attend in-person events due to health impacts and carer responsibilities. Potential Positive Impacts - The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Race	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - The relatively small and dispersed ethnic communities in North Tyneside can be harder to include. Language barriers may make it harder to participate. Potential Positive Impacts -The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Religion or belief	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - Members of some faiths, may feel concerned about harassment or prejudice, which may make them less likely to participate in in-person or face-to-face events. - Holy days, festivals and religious commitments may limit participation. Potential Positive Impacts - The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Sex	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - Women are more likely to have care responsibilities, which may make it harder for them to attend in-person/face-to-face events. Potential Positive Impacts -The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that		

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Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Sexual orientation	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - LGB people may feel less comfortable attending in-person events due to fear of prejudice or harassment. Potential Positive Impacts -The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Intersectionality	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Positive Impacts - Well-planned engagement activities will ensure that relevant demographics have their voice heard, data tracking will also highlight where issues have intersectional impact. Potential Negative Impacts - There is always a risk of over-representation of certain groups, as we know that some demographics are more likely to participate in engagement activities than others. Where there are intersectional barriers, there is a greater likelihood of residents not feeling comfortable participating in engagement activities, and therefore not being included within reports and feedback.		

Non-Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Carers	Yes	Yes
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - Caring responsibilities may limit the ability to participate in engagement activities in-person or in a time-limited manner (i.e. an online session). Potential Positive Impacts - Well-planned engagements will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Socio-economic	Yes	Yes

Non-Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
disadvantage		
<b>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</b> Potential Negative Impacts - May be less likely to have access to online activities. - Lack of public transport to locations for in-person engagement may limit participation. Potential Positive Impacts - Well-planned engagements will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		

## 5. Achievement of the Authority's Public Sector Equality Duty

Will the activity contribute to any of the following?

**Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment?**

N/A

**Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?**

Yes

**Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?**

Yes

**How will it advance the fostering of good relations?**

Engagement activities have the opportunity to build positive relationships between residents, communities and the Council.

## 6. Negative Impacts

**All negative impacts logged against the EqlA**

### Negative Impact #1



**Potential negative impact**

Language barriers arising through race and disability characteristics

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

- Use of translation, including translation technology as well as in-person translators, to address language barriers for ESOL speakers and new arrivals including refugees and asylum seekers.
- Employment of BSL translators and use of Sign Video where appropriate to support d/Deaf participation.
- Use of EasyRead to enable to engagement with people with learning disabilities, lower reading abilities and some forms of neurodiversity.
- Where we know of additional needs, we will provide information in the required format.

**Negative Impact #2**

**Potential negative impact**

Fear of harassment or prejudice

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

- Building good relationships with communities.
- Using inclusive and appropriate language in communication.
- Ensuring in-person and face-to-face events are welcoming, language used is appropriate and complaints/incidents reported are taken seriously.

**Negative Impact #3**

**Potential negative impact**

Restriction on time/availability

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

- Our engagement will be a mixture of in person events and online surveys/questionnaires. In person events will take place at different locations across the borough and at different times including including evenings and weekends.

**Negative Impact #4**

**Potential negative impact**

Lack of access

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

- We will offer multiple avenues for communication, for example via newsletter, social media posts, council website, etc.  
- Ensure that Libraries are set up for engagement activities – i.e. paper copies are available where appropriate, and there is space for online engagement with staff able to support.  
-Where we are aware of limited access to online engagement, paper copies will be made available directly.

**Negative Impact #5**

**Potential negative impact**

Religious holy days, festivals and religious commitments

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

- Be aware and consider religious calendars
- Consider culturally appropriate venues for in person consultation.

**Negative Impact #6**

**Potential negative impact**

Accessibility of Venues

**Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

**If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

-Use venues that are easy to get to via public transport, has disabled parking, are accessible for those with mobility issues and pushchairs, use of microphones if addressing a group.

**7. EqIA Review**

**Date review of EqIA to be completed**

01-10-2025

**Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Responsible officer's directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Responsible officer's service area**

Planning

## 8. Outcome of EqlA

### Outcome

The proposal is robust, no major change is required

### Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion

The proposed engagement relates to a draft Local Plan and Statement of Community Involvement which does not propose any actions but sets out a framework on how members of the public and organisations can engage with planning including adjustments to ensure information and engagement is accessible.

## Actions

### All actions that have been created for this EqlA

**Action ID: 262**

#### Action Title

Monitoring Characteristics

#### Action Type

Action to gather evidence or information to improve NTC's understanding of the potential impacts on people with protected characteristics and how best to respond to them

#### Due Date

15-Sep-2025

#### Status

To do

#### Assignee/Responsible officer

Ashley Bell



**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Corporate Strategy and Customer Service

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Communities and Inclusion

**Description**

Continuing engagement and monitoring of characteristics of residents on the Our North Tyneside Voice mailing list and residents who take part in engagement activities.

**Action ID: 263**

**Action Title**

EqlA Action Plan

**Action Type**

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Status**

In Progress

**Impact**

Reduce

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Planning

**Description**

Ensure all actions identified by the EqlA are incorporated into the engagement plan

**Action ID: 264**

**Action Title**

Engaging with protected characteristics communities

**Action Type**

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Status**

In Progress

**Impact**

Reduce

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Planning

**Description**

Continued engagement with communities with protected characteristics to build trust and develop relationships.

**Action ID: 265**

**Action Title**

Range of engagement times

**Action Type**

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Status**

In Progress

**Impact**

Reduce

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Regeneration and Culture

**Description**

Engagement activities are offered in a range of formats including online and paper surveys, events that are both in person and online which will take place at different times of day and days of the week and consider religious calendars.

**Action ID: 266**

**Action Title**

Accessible venues

**Action Type**

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Status**

In Progress

**Impact**

Reduce

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Planning

**Description**

We use accessible venues for in-person activities which includes consideration of location, culture, internal accessibility, microphones/aids etc. To create an inclusive and welcoming environment.

**Action ID: 267**

**Action Title**

Accessibility Statement

**Action Type**

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Status**

Rejected

**Impact**

Reduce

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**



Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Planning

**Description**

We will use our accessibility statement to ask people to let us know if they need materials in another format, or to access the engagement in another way.

**Action ID: 288**

**Action Title**

Accessible Communication

**Action Type**

Action that will be taken to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

**Due Date**

15-Sep-2025

**Status**

To do

**Impact**

Remove

**Assignee/Responsible officer**

Annabel Hodgson

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Regeneration and Economic Development

**Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Planning

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### **Description**

This includes language and formats, using inclusive language, using the access statement, promoting engagement through community organisations.