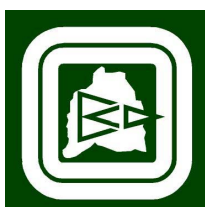


Bassetlaw District Local Development Framework

EQUALITY
IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
OF THE
PUBLICATION
CORE STRATEGY
AND DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT
POLICIES



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PUBLICATION
CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES



BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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Introduction

- 1.1** This report sets out the results of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of Bassetlaw District Council's Development Plan Document. The purpose of the EqIA is to highlight the likely impact of the Core Strategy policies on different community groups and to show how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in relation to the development of the policies.
- 1.2** The need for an EqIA to be undertaken stems from the duty placed on public authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination in carrying out its functions and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women, different racial groups and other equality groups.
- 1.3** Public authorities are specifically required to undertake an EqIA under:
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Race Relations Amendment Act 2000
 - Disability Act 2006
 - Sex and Discrimination Act 2007
- 1.4** For the purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment, the following groups have been considered in line with the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Proforma:
 - Age equality
 - Race equality
 - Gender equality
 - Disability equality
 - Religious equality
 - Sexual orientation equality

Bassetlaw Core Strategy Development Plan Document

- 1.5** The Core Strategy Development Plan Document forms part of Bassetlaw Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the Local Plan. The aim of the Core Strategy is to set out the key elements of the planning framework for Bassetlaw, consisting of a long-term spatial vision to 2026, a set of spatial objectives, along with a spatial strategy and core policies for shaping the future of the District and for guiding and controlling new development.
- 1.6** It identifies broad locations for new development to meet the District's needs, such as housing, employment and retail, leisure, community facilities, public services and transport. The policies aim to achieve the vision and objectives set out in the beginning of the

document. The policies set out in the Core Strategy are designed to be used in conjunction with each other and alongside other National Planning Guidance/Statements. They should not be viewed in isolation.

- 1.7** The Core Strategy draws on information contained within other policies and strategies from a wide range of services in both local and National Government. The Council has also undertaken other background studies to inform the Core Strategy. Continuous consultation with the public and stakeholder groups has allowed their ideas and wishes to be addressed as part of the process.
- 1.8** The preparation of the Core Strategy has four formal stages, each of which consist of a six-week period of formal consultation:
- Issues and Options: September - November 2009
 - Preferred Options: March – June 2010
 - Pre-submission Publication: November - December 2010
 - Examination: Summer 2011
- 1.9** At each stage the Council has sought feedback on the emerging plan, from the public and key consultees, to help guide its development.

Structure of the Report

- 1.10** Chapter 2 sets out the approach that has been taken in preparing this report. It outlines which key equality groups have been focused upon when considering the impacts that the policies within the Core Strategy DPD may have.
- 1.11** Chapter 3 sets out the initial assessment of the individual policies within the Core Strategy DPD, to ascertain whether they are likely to have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups which are being considered.
- 1.12** Chapter 4 considers the outcomes of the initial assessment to determine if any policies need to be further explored.
- 1.13** Chapter 5 sets out the consultation process undertaken in preparing the Core Strategy DPD and highlights the various organisations which have been consulted that represent the diversity of groups within the District.
- 1.14** Within the final chapter (Chapter 6), recommendations have been made as to how any impacts that the Core Strategy may have upon different equality groups could be monitored. This chapter also identifies good practice examples, which should be carried forward when preparing other Local Development Documents to ensure that unlawful discrimination is eliminated and equality is promoted.

The Approach to the Equality Impact Assessment

2.1 In undertaking the EqIA the Council has followed guidance from the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA). IDeA recommend that a six stage process is followed, as outlined below:

- Stage 1 - Initial screening
- Stage 2 - Scoping and defining
- Stage 3 - Information gathering
- Stage 4 - Making a judgement
- Stage 5 - Action planning
- Stage 6 - Publication and review

2.2 Consideration has also been given to guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) '*Equality and Diversity: Improving planning outcomes for the whole of the community*' (September 2008).

Stage 1 - Initial Screening

2.3 IDeA recommends that initial screening needs to take place for all new revised policies, strategies, procedures and functions. This stage will determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment for this area of work with the key question being '*Does the Core Strategy have the potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?*'.

2.4 To help answer this key question it is important to understand the overall scope of the Core Strategy. This is best set out within the Core Strategy as the 'Vision' for the District (please refer to Core Strategy Section 3). Due to the wide scope of the Core Strategy, as set out in the Vision, there may be potential for adverse impact or discrimination against different groups in the community. It is therefore considered appropriate for an EqIA of the Core Strategy to be carried out.

Stage 2 - Scoping and Defining

2.5 IDeA recommend that different perspectives and experiences are used in undertaken the EqIA. The ideal is that those responsible for delivering the strategy are involved and others, with technical expertise or with specialist knowledge are involved where appropriate. This EqIA and report has, therefore, been led by officers from the Planning Policy Team who are responsible for preparing the Core Strategy. The technical expertise and specialist knowledge of the following officers has also been be utilised where appropriate:

- Chair of the Corporate Equalities and Diversity Champions Group
- Members of the Corporate Equalities Group

Stage 3 - Information Gathering

2.6 Stage 3 of the EqIA is to identify sources of information that will be used to assist in the determination of whether the Core Strategy is likely to have an adverse impact or to discriminate against different groups in the community. IDeA identifies that sources of information could include census data, national data and national and local statistics.

Guidance from PAS recommends that local authorities go beyond Census data as it does not capture recent demographic changes and gives little indication to the experiences or aspirations of local groups.

2.7 The following sources of information have been used and are referred to where appropriate:

- Census Data
- Office of National Statistics data
- National and Local statistics
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (2007)
- National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NSSAL) 2000
- Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2020
- Consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options 2009
- Consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Options 2010

Community Profile

2.8 Bassetlaw is a large and predominantly rural District located in North Nottinghamshire. The District covers approximately 64,000 hectares.

Population Profile

2.9 Bassetlaw has a population of c.112,000 and is divided into 25 Wards. This population is expected to grow to 121,000 by 2026 and 125,000 by 2033 (ONS 2008 SNPP).

Age Structure

2.10 The table below shows the main age structure of Bassetlaw's population. This generally is in line with both the regional and national figures with a slightly lower than average percentage in the 18-24 age range. (6.8% Bassetlaw, 8.3% East Midlands and 8.4% England) and a higher than average percentage in the 45-64 population age range (26.1%, 24.5% and 23.7% retrospectively).

Age Group	Age Structure expressed as a percentage		
	Bassetlaw	East Midlands	England
Aged 0-15	19.9%	20.1%	20.2%
Aged 16-17	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%
Aged 18-24	6.8%	8.3%	8.4%
Aged 25-44	28.3%	28.5%	29.3%
Aged 45-64	26.1%	24.6%	23.8%
Aged 65+	16.2%	16.1%	15.9%

Table 2.1

Student Population

2.11 Bassetlaw does not have a facility for post-18 higher education. North Nottinghamshire College, however, is located in Worksop and has a student population (part-time and full time) of 4,600 (2009) post-16 students. Student accommodation and housing is not provided by the college and, therefore, this does not create a high concentration of students in one specific location.

Gypsy and Travelling Community

2.12 As shown in the table below, there are five gypsy and traveller sites across the District. The majority of pitches are provided in Worksop and at Daneshill Lakes.

Gypsy Sites	Number of Pitches	Number of Caravans (As of July 2010)
Cheapside, Worksop	5	5
Markham Moor (three sites)	12	7
Stubbing Lane, Worksop	25	28
Daneshill Lakes, Torworth (County Council Owned)	16	21

Table 2.2

LGBT Community

2.13 Bassetlaw is part of a wider LGBT community group which covers the District, as well as Newark & Sherwood and Mansfield.

Ethnicity

2.14 Bassetlaw has a slow growing multicultural society, which is the case both regionally and nationally. The table below, however, shows that Bassetlaw has a much lower proportion of people from non-white backgrounds than both the East Midlands and England.

Ethnic Origin	Bassetlaw	East Midlands	England
White	98.55%	93.48%	90.92%
Mixed	0.50%	1.04%	1.31%
Asian	0.48%	4.05%	4.57%
Black	0.30%	0.95%	2.30%
Chinese	0.18%	0.49%	0.89%

Table 2.3

Religion

2.15 The table below highlights that Bassetlaw does not exhibit a particularly high religious diversity. It has a higher than average Christian population. In contrast, there are fewer Jewish and Muslim residents compared to the regional and national average. At ward level there is a higher concentration of mix religions, particularly in Worksop and Retford.

Religion	Bassetlaw	East Midlands	England
Christian	81.53%	71.99%	71.74%
Buddhist	0.09%	0.18%	0.28%
Hindu	0.13%	1.60%	1.11%
Jewish	0.05%	0.10%	0.52%
Muslim	0.33%	1.68%	3.10%
Sikh	0.07%	0.80%	0.67%
Other Religion	0.21%	0.24%	0.29%
No Religion	9.99%	15.94%	14.59%
Religion not stated	7.61%	7.48%	7.69%

Table 2.4

Disabled and People with Learning Difficulties

2.16 Information from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007) provides an indication of disability within the District. This is illustrated in the table below.

District	Average Score	National Rank	County Rank
Nottingham City	163.7	22	1
Mansfield	159.1	27	2
Ashfield	136.9	58	3
Bassetlaw	133.5	63	4
Newark and Sherwood	109.9	131	5
Broxtowe	100.5	167	6
Gedling	100.2	171	7
Rushcliffe	77.9	276	8
Nottinghamshire	129.3	-	-

District	Average Score	National Rank	County Rank
England	96.5	-	-

Table 2.5

2.17 The figures in the table represent the level of comparative illness and disability. The score provides a weighted average of the scores for all the Super Output Areas within the District. The average score is 100, all results under 100 indicate a lower than average level of illness and/or disability, results above 100 show a higher than average level of illness and/or disability. This allows a fair comparison across all areas in the country.

2.18 The data indicates that Bassetlaw has a higher than average level of disability when compared to Nottinghamshire and much higher than that of England, but this is concentrated within the former mining areas in the Northwest of the District: Worksop (168.9), Langold (153.3), Carlton (159.5) and Harworth (169.5).

Travel and Lifestyle

2.19 Bassetlaw is a predominantly rural District, served by the market town of Retford and the larger centre of Worksop. Over 57% of the District's population lives within these two towns, but this leaves a large rural population. Consequently, the majority of journeys are made by car, which is higher than both regional and national averages. The percentage of journeys made by foot, by bicycle and public transport within Bassetlaw are also higher than both the regional and national average. The least used mode of transport in Bassetlaw is Light Rail.

Lifestyle	Bassetlaw	East Midlands	England
Work from Home	9.27%	9.04%	9.16%
Light Rail	0.04%	0.07%	3.16%
Train	0.89%	0.98%	4.23%
Bus/coach	3.01%	6.98%	7.51%
Motorcycle	1.08%	1.04%	1.11%
Can/Van	62.99%	60.38%	54.92%
Passenger in Car	7.83%	6.95%	6.11%
Taxi	0.24%	0.41%	0.52%
Bicycle	3.49%	3.27%	2.83%
By Foot	10.86%	10.49%	9.90%
Other	0.47%	0.39%	0.46%

Table 2.6

Life Expectancy

2.20 The health and wellbeing of the local population is an important factor in influencing social and economic factors, such as economic activity and deprivation. The table below shows that the average life expectancy rates for both males and females are slightly below that of the regional and national averages.

Life Expectancy	Bassetlaw	East Midlands	England
Males	76.6%	76.9%	76.9%
Females	79.9%	80.9%	81.1%

Table 2.7

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

Educational Attainment and Qualifications

2.21 Since 2004, Bassetlaw has seen levels of educational attainment for GCSEs rise from 30.4 in 2004/5 to 38.6 in 2007/8. Bassetlaw, however, along with Mansfield, still has the lowest levels of educational attainment within Nottinghamshire (and South Yorkshire).

Authority	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Bassetlaw	30.4	32.1	34.4	38.6
Doncaster	33.5	34.8	37.4	39.6
Mansfield	28.4	29.9	34.6	36.6
Newark and Sherwood	37.8	40.7	37.9	39.3
Rotherham	36.1	37.5	39.0	41.4
Sheffield	37.6	37.1	39.9	41.2

Table 2.8

Average House Prices

2.22 The table below shows that average house prices within Bassetlaw have generally decreased through the recession, particularly from late 2007 through to late 2009. Prices in early 2010 increased slightly, only to fall again towards the end of the summer. Bassetlaw's average house prices are below that of both the regional and national averages.

Month/Year	Average Price
December 2007	£143,737
February 2008	£142,112
April 2008	£139,446

Month/Year	Average Price
June 2008	£136,918
August 2008	£134,084
October 2008	£130,230
December 2008	£127,389
February 2009	£125,557
April 2009	£125,336
June 2009	£125,097
August 2009	£124,577
October 2009	£124,563
December 2009	£124,716
February 2010	£125,012
April 2010	£125,823
June 2010	£126,460
August 2010	£125,845

Table 2.9

Employment Statistics

2.23 Unemployment according to the Government's preferred measure was 4.2% in Nottinghamshire and 3.6% in Bassetlaw, which is well below the national average of 7.8%. Worksop and Harworth have the highest percentage of unemployed persons, with southeast Worksop posting the highest figure of 7.7%. The lowest rates of unemployment are located within the smaller, more rural wards within the East of the District.

Ward	Number	Unemployment (%) August 2010
Beckingham	29	2.5%
Blyth	26	2.0%
Carlton	121	3.4%
Clayworth	46	3.3%
East Markham	24	2.1%
East Retford West	136	4.8%

Ward	Number	Unemployment (%) August 2010
East Retford East	189	4.7%
East Retford South	107	4.1%
East Retford North	107	3.2%
Everton	31	2.2%
Harworth	226	5.0%
Langold	64	4.1%
Misterton	64	4.5%
Ranskill	22	1.5%
Rampton	30	1.9%
Sturton	27	2.0%
Sutton	25	1.1%
Tuxford and Trent	59	2.3%
Welbeck	31	2.3%
Worksop East	160	4.4%
Worksop North	140	2.5%
Worksop North East	118	3.1%
Worksop North West	219	4.5%
Worksop South	105	2.4%
Worksop Southeast	364	7.7%

Table 2.10

An Assessment of the Core Strategy Policies

- 3.1** The Core Strategy DPD contains a Vision, strategic objectives, Core Policies and Development Management policies. The vision and objectives are quite broad and, therefore, this assessment focuses on the policies themselves.
- 3.2** The following abbreviations are used in the table:
- CS = Core Policy
 - DM = Development Management Policy
- 3.3** The table below summarises the initial screening process for each policy and its impact on each equalities groups. It considers whether the policy will have a positive, neutral, negative impact or is not applicable to the equalities group.

Policy	Equalities Group						Commentary
	Race	Gender	Disability	Sexual Orientation	Religion/ Belief		
Age							
CS1: Settlement Hierarchy. Policy identifies the settlements which will deliver sustainable development. The policy also sets out the scale and distribution of housing and employment.	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	The CS1 policy should have an overall positive impact on the equalities groups as it will concentrate development into the most sustainable locations. In particular it will benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.
CS2: Worksop This policy sets out the approach to future development in Worksop	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Additional housing, regeneration and employment which meets the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact. Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.
CS3: Retford This policy sets out the approach to future development in Retford	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Additional housing, regeneration and employment which meets the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact. Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.

Policy	Equalities Group						Commentary
<p>CS4: Harworth Bircotes This policy sets out the approach to future development and regeneration in Harworth/Bircotes</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>Additional housing, regeneration and employment which meets the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact. Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.</p>
<p>CS5 : Carlton in Lindrick and Langold This policy sets out the approach to future development.</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>Additional housing, extensions to the existing employment and improvements to local services which meet the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact.</p> <p>Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.</p>
<p>CS6: Tuxford This policy sets out the approach to future development</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>Additional housing , extensions to the existing employment and improvements to local services which meet the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact.</p> <p>Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly</p>

Policy	Equalities Group						Commentary
<p>CS7: Misterton</p> <p>This policy sets out the approach to future development</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.</p> <p>Additional housing , extensions to the existing employment and improvements to local services which meet the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact.</p> <p>Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.</p>
<p>CS8: Rural Service Centres</p> <p>The policy sets out the approach to development in the rural service centres.</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>Additional housing and improvements to local services and facilities which meet the needs of specific equality groups will have significant beneficial impact. Also, concentrating development in more accessible locations close to facilities and services, should reduce the need to travel and will particularly benefit those with disabilities and the old and the young that do not have access to a car.</p>
<p>CS9: Other Settlements</p> <p>The policy sets out the approach to development in other rural areas especially in relation to</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	<p>The provision of affordable housing to meet local needs and the development of local services and facilities will benefit all members of the community.</p>

Policy	Equalities Group					Commentary
<p>local services and facilities, local housing need and the rural economy.</p>						
<p>DM1: Rural Economic Development This policy sets out how rural economic development will be supported.</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	This policy could benefit young and elderly people in rural areas with access to services and jobs.
<p>DM2: Conversion of Rural Buildings This policy sets out the approach to the conversion of rural buildings.</p>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	This policy would have no impact on equalities considerations.
<p>DM3: Development in the Countryside This Policy sets out the approach to development in the countryside.</p>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	This policy would have no impact on equalities considerations.
<p>DM4: Design Sets out that the Council will expect high design standards from all new development ensuring they are well designed in terms of appearance, accessibility, amenities and carbon reduction.</p>	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	In the long term the requirements set out in this policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions will particularly benefit the elderly and those on low incomes who are more likely to suffer from fuel poverty. Provision of new development which is accessible is likely to have a particularly beneficial impact on people with disabilities and older people.

Policy	Equalities Group							Commentary
	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	
DM5: Housing Mix and Density The policy relates specifically to housing density and mix of homes.	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Housing that meets the existing and future needs of the whole community will have significant impacts. This policy will also relate to affordable housing and encourage houses built to Lifetime Homes Standards which will benefit those on low incomes, disabilities and elderly.
DM6: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People The policy sets out the number of pitches needed over the plan period.	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Gypsies and Travellers are a recognised ethnic minority group and, therefore, this policy is beneficial in terms of ethnicity. Having a permanent site will benefit younger residents of the travelling community as they will be able to benefit from continued access to educational facilities.
DM7: Securing Economic Development This policy sets out the need for more employment land in the District and how it will be secured	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	This policy will ensure additional jobs are created, which will benefit the whole community and address issues of gender, age and disabilities. Ensuring employment sites are located in the most sustainable locations will be of benefit to those without access to a car.
DM8: Historic Environment Policy seeks to protect and enhance the historic environment of the District .	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	This policy would have no impact on equalities considerations.
DM9: Green Infrastructure: Biodiversity; Open space and Sports Facilities Policy states that the Council will seek to conserve and enhance the green infrastructure,	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	This policy would have no impact on equalities considerations.

Policy	Equalities Group					Commentary
biodiversity, open spaces and play pitches in the District and the methods that will be used to achieve this.						
DM10: Renewable Energy This policy sets out the Council's intention to support renewable energy in new developments.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	This policy would have no impact on equalities considerations.
DM11: Developer Contributions	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	This policy would have a positive impact for the whole community delivering community benefits such as open spaces. It will also have a positive impact on people on low incomes and the young and elderly as affordable housing could also be sought through this policy.
DM12: Flood Risk, Sewage and Drainage This policy sets out areas that are prone to flooding and the requirements in these areas when submitting planning applications.	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	This policy would have no impact on the equalities consideration.
DM13: Sustainable Transport This policy supports schemes that incorporate plans for sustainable transport.	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	The provision of sustainable transport will benefit the whole community however, it could have a particular benefit for those on low incomes, disabled, young and elderly.

Policy	Equalities Group						Commentary
DM14: Ground Conditions and Land Stability This policy sets out the criteria for new developments in former coal mining areas	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	This policy would have no impact on the equalities consideration.

Table 3.1 Screening of the Core Strategy Policies

An Assessment of the Core Strategy Policies

- 4.1** The initial screening of the Core Strategy policies (chapter 4) identified that the majority of the policies are likely to have a positive impact on equality groups within the District. Policies DM5 Housing Mix and Design and DM6 Gypsies Travellers and Travelling Show People will all have a direct positive impact on certain equality groups.
- 4.2** This Chapter examines why these policies have been introduced through the Core Strategy focusing on Government guidance and the individual needs of the equality groups which they aim to benefit.

Policy Policy DM5: Housing Mix and Design

- 4.3** Policy DM5 Housing Mix and Design does not set specific density in which development should be built in accordance with but will expect new development to reflect the densities of the surrounding housing and reflect the specific characteristics of the site and the area in which it is located in.
- 4.4** In terms of housing mix, new developments will be expected to deliver, in discussion with the Council, a mix of house size, type and tenure informed by the following studies.
- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment
 - The sub-regional Housing Strategy
 - The local demographics context and future trends
 - Local assessment of housing need and demand
 - Future supplementary Planning Document on design
- 4.5** As identified in chapter 3, this policy is likely to have a direct - positive impact on certain groups including the elderly and those with disabilities.
- 4.6** The Council's approach to seeking a balanced housing market is supported by Government guidance in the form of Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) 'Housing' (June 2010). PPS3 states that Local Planning Authorities should plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period. This includes the accommodation requirements of specific groups, in particular, families with children, older and disabled people.

Policy DM6: 'Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople'

- 4.7** Policy DM6 'Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople' sets out a criteria-based policy that will be applied when determining planning applications and when the Council undertakes a search for sites to allocate for new pitches through the Site Allocations DPD.
- 4.8** As identified in Chapter 4, this policy is likely to have a direct-positive impact on certain groups (i.e. ethnicity / race). Having a permanent site will also benefit younger residents of the travelling community as they will be able to benefit from continued access to educational facilities. Access to healthcare facilities will also benefit the elderly, young people and those with disabilities who tend to use these facilities more frequently. A sizeable proportion of the travelling community are also on low incomes.

- 4.9** It is considered that a specific policy is required to meet the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, as their housing needs are not being met by the general housing market.
- 4.10** Core Strategy Policy DM6 is in accordance with Government guidance, namely PPS 3 and Circulars 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' and 04/2007 'Planning for Travelling Showpeople'. PPS3 states that Local Planning Authorities should plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period. This will include having particular regard to the diverse range of requirements across the area, including the need to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers.
- 4.11** The aim of Circulars 01/2006 and 04/2007 is, therefore, to significantly increase the provision of sites and to create and support sustainable, respectful and inclusive communities. The Circulars require Local Planning Authorities to undertake an accommodation assessment of Gypsy and Traveller needs.

Consultation

- 5.1** The policies contained in the Core Strategy DPD have been developed in partnership with the local community, agents, developers, parish councils and local interest groups through a range a consultation exercises over two years.
- 5.2** At each stage of its development, the Council has sought the view of the public and other stakeholders to help shape the development of the Core Strategy. This has been carried out in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Council has made every effort to ensure engagement through workshops, community fun days, exhibitions, local advertising, distribution of poster, letters, online portal, and articles in Bassetlaw News and in local papers.
- 5.3** The consultation techniques targeted at the wider community may have indirectly benefited a particular equality group. The Council has, however, consulted with specific umbrella organisations or link Officers to seek the views of certain equality groups. These have included:
- Bassetlaw Community Voluntary Service (BCVS)
 - The Council's top 25 'Hard to Hear' groups
 - Rural Officer
 - Parish Councils
 - Local Secondary Schools
 - Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer
 - Local Strategic Partnership
- 5.4** The Council has undertaken a variety of consultation events to engage with different sections of the community and organisations. The consultation activities undertaken when consulting with the public are not considered to have had an adverse impact on the community or to have discriminated against any other groups within the community.

Equality Groups	Engagement Techniques
Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops held in Schools • Community Fun days • Attending public meeting and school events • Council's Website • Online Portal • Use of new Technologies
Elderly Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings • Attending public meetings • Workshops at community/village halls

Equality Groups	Engagement Techniques
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adverts in Local News Papers ● Advertising on local radio station
Ethnic Minority Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing documents in different languages on request ● Providing translators at meetings on request ● Meeting with representatives
Travelling Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meetings ● Community Fun days ● Workshops ● Site visits to talk to travelling communities ● Liaising with the NAVO Gypsy and Traveller liaison officer
Small Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Meetings ● Workshops ● Website ● Online Portal ● Adverts in Local News Papers ● Advertising on local radio station
Rural Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public meetings and workshops held in rural areas ● Attended Parish Council meetings ● Meeting with local interest groups ● Liaising with the Council's Rural Officer ● Website ● Community fun days ● Online Portal
Those with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshops ● Documents produced in Braille, large print and audio on request ● Attending public meetings ● Community fun days

Table 5.1 Engagement Techniques used to engage with Equality Groups

Summary

- 6.1** The policies within the Core Strategy have been formulated through consultation with the local community and other stakeholders to try and create equality for all sections of society, facilitating equal opportunities to access services. Some of these policies may seem to favour a certain equality group, but the justification for this stems from the Council's evidence base, consultation and Government Guidance. As discussed, throughout the document the policies aim to take positive action in targeting local needs for housing, employment, services and facilities in a sustainable manner.
- 6.2** The Equality Impact Assessment on the Core Strategy policies has highlighted that the policies are likely to have a positive impact on certain community groups within the District. These will also benefit the wider community.
- 6.3** The policies within the Core Strategy will contribute positively to the local community providing new housing, employment and opportunities for new community infrastructure.
- 6.4** Based on the fact the Equality Impact Assessment has not highlighted any adverse impact to any equality group the Council does not deem it necessary to put in place any specific measures to mitigate against an adverse impacts. The Council will, however, monitor the implementation of the policies through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) (the Core Strategy also contains a section on the monitoring framework in section six of the document) and amend them in the unlikely event that there are unforeseen negative impacts.