



SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Equality Impact (Initial Analysis)

SKDC – Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven (Supplementary Planning Document)

Service Area:	Lead officer: Richard Shaw	Date of Meeting 26/10/21
Planning Policy Development and Growth	Assessors: Emma Whittaker	
	Neutral Assessor: Carol Drury	

	<p>Negative (increased utilisation of digital technology)</p>	<p>a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible. For example, section 5C on page 30 includes guidance on encouraging positive social contact through design, such as open spaces designed for all ages, community facilities and meeting places. It also includes guidance on creating walkable neighbourhoods and places that are easy to navigate in addition to designing places for all, including older people and the mobility impaired and also buildings that are adaptable and accessible.</p> <p>The shift towards the use of more digital technology may impact upon those less familiar or confident with this or who do not have access to it. This has been amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic. Paper copies of the document and the survey were made available upon request and an electronic version in Microsoft Word was made available on request as an alternative to the online SurveyMonkey form.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's</p>

	<p>Negative (increased utilisation of digital technology)</p>	<p>Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes areas such as wider pavements, safer streets, easy to navigate environments and designing places for all including the mobility impaired, along with homes that are accessible and adaptable.</p> <p>The shift towards the use of more digital technology may impact upon those less familiar or confident with this or who do not have access to it. This has been amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic. Paper copies of the document and the survey were made available upon request and an electronic version in Microsoft Word was made available on request as an alternative to the online SurveyMonkey form.</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>It is recognised that there may be challenges in engaging people whose first language is not English. To address this, the Local Plan consultation database has attempted to include the contact details for a range of different organisations representing different ethnicities who will be notified of any consultations (this database was used for the Design Guidelines consultation).</p>

	<p>Negative (increased utilisation of digital technology)</p>	<p>The Council is also committed to making reasonable adjustments to support equality of access therefore, relevant documents can be translated into other languages if required on request.</p> <p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens, and activities.</p> <p>The shift towards the use of more digital technology may impact upon those less familiar or confident with this or who do not have access to it. This has been amplified by the COVID 19 pandemic. Paper copies of the document and the survey were made available upon request and an electronic version in Microsoft Word was made available on request as an alternative to the online SurveyMonkey form.</p>
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<p>Gender Reassignment</p>	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens and activities.</p>
<p>Religion or Belief</p>	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p>

		<p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens and activities.</p>
Sex	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens and activities.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst</p>

		<p>also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens and activities.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)</p>	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality</p>

		community facilities, gardens and activities.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination of face to face events and also online methods, with the hope of being more accessible, welcoming and engaging for a greater range of people.</p> <p>The guidance itself within the document also aims to make new developments more inclusive and accessible, for example section 5C on page 30 includes encouraging positive social contact and designing places that are welcoming to all with quality community facilities, gardens and activities.</p>
Carers	Positive (the document encourages a design process to be followed and promotes inclusivity for all)	<p>The document encourages a set design process to be followed and part of this process involves advising applicants to engage with the local community <i>before</i> any detailed design proposals are drawn up. The document gives examples of best practice in engagement (section 1.6) whilst also referring to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The recommendations in section 1.6 of the Design Guidelines include a range of consultation measures and these include a combination</p>

		<p>confident with this or who do not have access to it. This has been amplified by the Covid 19 pandemic. Paper copies of the document and the survey were made available upon request and an electronic version in Microsoft Word was made available on request as an alternative to the online SurveyMonkey form.</p>
<p>General comments</p>	<p>The Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven have been drafted with equalities considerations as a corporate priority and they make reference to the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement. The section on engagement applies to the public generally and is not intended to focus on any specific group. For plan-making the Council has committed to maintaining a mix of online and offline consultation methods (where appropriate in consideration to COVID 19 guidance) and to make reasonable adjustments for equalities requests in line with the general equality duty. In all cases and considering that planning issues can vary significantly depending on individual proposals, the general equality duty applies irrespective of the Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The design guidance within the document includes sections that touch upon equalities issues and section 1.6 on page 30 highlights a number of these issues, such as encouraging positive social contact for all, walkable communities, physical activity for all, easy to navigate environments, designing places for all (including older people, mobility impaired, adaptable and accessible homes).</p>	

3. What equality data/information did you use to inform the outcomes of the proposed policy/service/function/strategy? (Note any relevant consultation who took part and key findings)

The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) under paragraph 16 states that - Plans should:

“c) be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees”

The document is based on setting out consultation methods in accordance with Local Planning Regulations, Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure). These regulations provide the requirements for when it should happen and how it should take place.

The regulations also set out defined stages of plan production, and lists individuals who need to be consulted known as ‘specific consultation bodies’. Furthermore, the Council has discretion to identify a number of other bodies

representing certain interests known as 'general consultation bodies' and SKDC has therefore looked to broaden the scope as much as possible across the district.

The Design Guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Councils' Statements of Community Involvement.

Stakeholder and Councillor workshops informed its drafting and changes have been made following the extensive feedback received as part of a public consultation exercise.

A 6 week public consultation on the draft Design Guidelines was undertaken between the 29th January and the 12th March 2021. The Design Guidelines consultation document was made available to view and access from the Council website. A general notification of the consultation was sent out via email and letter to those on our consultation database, including town / parish councils, statutory bodies, and Ward Cllrs.

Attempt was made to make the consultation as accessible as possible, and this included a QR code and smartphone friendly survey format, in addition to forms accessible online.

Copies of the consultation documents were made available on the Councils' websites, however due to COVID-19 restrictions and temporary changes in legislation, hard copies of the documents were not required to be placed in public areas. The legislation was introduced in recognition of the challenge that some local authorities may face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, to remove the need for local authorities to make hard copy documents available for public inspection for a temporary period from 16 July 2020 until 31 December 2021 were made.

Hardcopies of the survey and the Design Guide were made available on request.

More detailed information on the consultation process and results can be found in the Consultation Statement.

The Design Guidelines document has been refined, taking into account the comments made during the consultation.

The technical content of the document references and is consistent with National design guidance that also covers equalities issues, for example: The National Design Guide, Manual for Streets, Building for a Healthy Life – particularly with regards to designing places that are welcoming, easy to navigate around, accessible to all and that are safe for all.

If there are any gaps in the consultation/monitoring data, how will this be addressed?

The Council is also committed to involving a wide range of other individuals including members of the public, local community voluntary groups, and hard to reach groups. SKDC is constantly monitoring its contact database and looking for ways in which to effectively improve consultations to have more effective communications with the Local Authority

4. Outcomes of analysis and recommendations (please note you will be required to provide evidence to support the recommendations made): Please check one of the options.

a)	No major change needed: equality analysis has not identified any potential for discrimination or for negative impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>If you have checked option a) you can now send this form to the Lead Officer and your Neutral Assessor for sign off</i>		
b)	Adjust the proposal to remove barriers identified by equality analysis or to better promote equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If you have checked option b) you will need to answer questions b.1 and b.2</i>		
c)	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If you have checked option c) you will need to answer questions c.1</i>		
d)	Stop and remove the policy/function/service/strategy as equality analysis has shown actual or potential unlawful	<input type="checkbox"/>

b.1 In brief, what changes are you planning to make to your proposed policy/service/function/strategy to minimise or eliminate the negative equality impacts?

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b.2 Please provide details of whom you will consult on the proposed changes and if you do not plan to consult, please provide the rationale behind that decision.

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If you have checked option b) you will need to complete a Stage 2 equality analysis

- c.1** Please provide an explanation in the box below that clearly sets out your justification for continuing with the proposed policy/function/service/strategy.

If you have checked option c) you will need to complete a Stage 2 equality analysis. You should consider in stage 2 whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact.

Signed (Lead Officer):
(Name and title)

Richard Shaw
Principal Design Officer

Date completed:

26/10/21

Signed (Neutral Assessor):
(Name and title)

Carol Drury
Senior Community Development Officer

Date signed off:

27/10/21