

Addendum to Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 1.1 It is a Council requirement and a requirement of planning regulations that plans prepared have been subject to an equalities impact assessment. An EIA was carried out on the draft local plan and further consideration has been given to the impact of the proposed focused changes.
- 1.2 The EIA of the draft local plan records that the local plan policies seek to promote opportunities for all people, including the protected groups. Its policies will advance opportunities for various age groups including elderly, youth, young people and children, e.g. by promoting development where it has good access to shops, schools, services and other facilities, and planning for enough new development that there is suitable housing for all. The Local Plan invites all people to participate and get involved in the plan making process through Reference Groups and other consultation exercises.
- 1.3 One of the focussed changes proposed (to PolicyC2: Housing Mix) is to make the higher technical standards for accessible dwellings set out in Building Regulations discretionary rather than obligatory, where they are an element of the housing mix proposed. This could slightly adversely affect the living conditions of the limited number of future occupiers of these dwellings, who will be people with disabilities. This change is proposed because the revised Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Viability Study (2016) found that the policy requirement of use of the Building Regulations 2015 Part M4 (2) and (3) places disproportionate viability challenges on the providers of retirement homes, sheltered homes, care homes and accessible dwellings, and is likely to deter the provision of these types of accommodation in the Borough. If this requirement is relaxed, it could ensure at least some of these types of accommodation are provided; therefore no adverse impact of this change has been identified.
- 1.4 Whilst not directly a protected group under the Council's EIA framework, the proposed Addendum of Focused Changes does reflect new evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsies, travellers and Travelling Showpeople, but the new evidence has not warranted any substantive change to draft Policy C6.
- 1.5 None of the other groups included in the assessment would be differentially affected by the local plan polices and the proposed changes.