

# East Suffolk - Equality Impact Analysis (EqIA)

EqIA reference: **EQIA604900069**

Service area/Team conducting EqIA: **Planning Policy and Delivery Planning and Coastal Management**

Officer conducting the EqIA: **Ian Johns**

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Responsible Cabinet member: **Cllr Kay Yule**

Title of project/policy/initiative/action relating to this EqIA: **Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document**

Is this a new project, policy, initiative or action that directly impacts people: **Yes**

Date of EqIA: **11/04/2024**

Does the project/policy/initiative/action relating to this EqIA have the potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

## **Characteristic - Impact**

Age: **Positive**

Reason: **The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of people of all ages, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore benefit those from different age groups.**

Disability: **Positive**

Reason: **The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents. This includes providing disabled access and ensuring access to facilities and increased mobility. It will therefore benefit this those with a disability.**

Gender reassignment: **No impact**

Reason: **The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

Marriage and civil partnership: **No impact**

Reason: **The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high**

**quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Pregnancy and maternity: No impact**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Race: No impact**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Religion or belief: No impact**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Sex: No impact**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Sexual orientation: No impact**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of all residents, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. It will therefore not impact upon this group.**

**Deprivation/Socio-economic Disadvantage: Positive**

**Reason: The Healthy Environments SPD includes guidance to help developers create high quality developments that benefit the physical and mental health of people of all levels of income, as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles. This includes the provision exercise equipment and access to green space. It will therefore benefit those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation.**

**What evidence or data has been collated or used to support the completion of this EqlAPublic consultations and engagement (stating any specific groups you engaged with or surveys referred to), Engagement with other internal teams/ departments**

**Details for public consultations: There was an initial process of consultation, which guided the preparation of the Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The consultation ran from 26th September to 7th November 2022 and the following groups were contacted:**

- Developers, planning agents, architects, and land agents
- Town and Parish Councils
- Suffolk County Council – Highways, Public Health, Planning Strategy
- Infrastructure providers – e.g. Network Rail, Environment Agency etc.
- Housing Associations
- Relevant national, regional and county level organisations – Sport England, Historic England, Sustrans, Suffolk Mind, Home Builders Federation, etc.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- The NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board
- The NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board

The organisations listed above were contacted by email or post. The consultation was advertised on the Council's website as well as on social media posts. A questionnaire was published on the Council's website, which included background information about the SPD, as well as a series of questions to be completed. Hard copies were available on request by contacting the planning policy and delivery team. Comments received have been taken into account in the preparation of the draft SPD.

A formal public consultation took place from 15th November 2023 to 10th January 2024 on the Draft Healthy Environments SPD. This consultation lasted a total of eight weeks. An extra two weeks were added to the duration of the consultation to take account of the latter part of the consultation overlapping with the Christmas holidays. The purpose of this consultation was to enable respondents to comment on the draft Healthy Environments SPD.

The document was made available online on the Council's website to enable people to comment. Consultation letters and emails were sent to consultees on the Council's planning policy mailing list. A press release was released covering the consultation. The planning policy mailing list included Town and Parish Councils, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Councillors, neighbouring district Councils including the Broads Authority, developers, agents, landowners, business associations, civic societies, infrastructure providers, and members of the public.

Copies of consultation documents were available online, and hard copies made available for inspection in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres.

Details for engagement: Preparation of the document was guided by a steering group, which met at regular intervals. This included colleagues from the development management, specialist services, environmental protection, leisure operations, economic development and communities teams. It also included employees from the NHS and Suffolk County Council.

There were also a number of focus groups, which were concerned with particular issues. Issues discussed included Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space, open space and play and wellbeing hubs. These were attended by Council officers and NHS employees.

Lastly, the document was presented to the Local Plan Working Group for discussion. This is

**a group of elected members that meets to oversee the preparation of planning policy documents and provide input and guidance.**

As a result of undertaking this EqlA do you need to provide information relating to the policy, project, initiative or action to the public in a different language or form and how do you propose to do this: **The initial consultation took place online, but hard copies of the consultation document could be made available by contacting the Planning Policy and Delivery Team. As part of the eight week period of formal consultation the document was published on the Council's website with hard copies available on request for those unable to access it online. The document could be requested in a different language. When such requests were received the Customer Services Team were involved in ensuring that this request was actioned. No requests were received for the document in a different language.**

As a result of completing this EqlA, has the Author, Service team, Project manager made any changes or adjustments to the policy/project/initiative/action: **No**

Is the policy/project/initiative/action subject to equality monitoring: **No**