

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Opinion

Sustainable Construction Supplementary
Planning Document

October 2021



Introduction

1. It is the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to undertake an Equality Impact Analysis at the time of formulating a decision, drafting a report, designing or amending a policy. This will ensure that the Council is considering and taking positive action where possible to promote access to services for all their communities, including their wider communities. The Equality Impact Assessment Screening Assessment will assess whether there is any impact upon any of the groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act, which are listed in the table below. If an adverse impact upon any of these groups is identified then a full Equalities Impact Assessment will be required.
2. The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will provide guidance on a range of topics to support the implementation of East Suffolk Local Plan policies. Once adopted by the Council, the document will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. As such it will be of use to architects, designers, agents, planning application applicants and developers. Guidance in this SPD will be divided into the following sections:

1: Introduction

Provides background information on the purpose of the document, the Council's commitment to fighting climate change, and what sustainable construction is.

2: Water Efficiency and Management

Provides information on ways to reduce water usage, sustainable drainage systems and designing to mitigate flood risk.

3: Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction

This section explains the different terminologies and approaches to reducing carbon emissions. It also supports the use of the energy hierarchy to reduce energy demand and the associated carbon emissions.

4: Materials

This section explains sourcing materials responsibility, using materials with a recycled content, material that can be recycled when a building comes to the end of its life and the use of renewable materials.

5: Waste

This section provides information on reducing on-site waste and providing waste storage facilities for occupants.

6: Siting, Form and Orientation

This section considers a range of design related issues that can increase the sustainability of a building including maximising daylight, maximising solar gain, designing roofs to be solar panel ready and utilising natural ventilation.

7: Sustainable Energy and Construction and the Historic Environment

This section will provide examples of how historic buildings can achieve high environment standards.

8: Natural Environment

This section focuses on design buildings that are not only energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions but are designed and construction with nature and wildlife in mind.

9: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes

This section provides information on a range of renewable and low carbon energy technologies including permitted development and Building Regulations.

10: Construction Methods

This section covers timber framed buildings, earth-sheltered buildings, cob houses, prefabricated and modular off-site building methods. The section also covers BREEAM and Passivhaus building standards.

11: Healthy Buildings and Places

This section provides information on a range of measures to maximise the health benefits of sustainably constructed buildings for occupants and users.

12: Making a Planning Application

This section provides guidance on submitting a planning application including information on Energy Statements, standard planning conditions, viability and feasibility and water statement requirements.

Appendix A: Evidence Base & Further Guidance

Appendix B: Sustainability Statement TER Template

Appendix C: Standard Condition Wording

Appendix D: Sustainable development checklist

Appendix E: List of Photograph Credits

3. Key topics within this SPD will provide guidance on a range of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials, to support the implementation of the Local Plan policies. Links to further websites and other sources of practical advice will also be provided.
4. The Sustainable Construction SPD will help to implement policies contained in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans, all of which have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment screening. The following Local Plan policies will be implemented by the Sustainable Construction SPD:

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (September 2020):

- SCLP9.1: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy
- SCLP9.2: Sustainable Construction
- SCLP9.6: Sustainable Drainage Systems
- SCLP9.7: Holistic Water Management

Waveney Local Plan (March 2019):

- WLP8.27: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- WLP8.28: Sustainable Construction

5. The Equality Act 2010 lists nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. East Suffolk Council has added a tenth characteristic, socio-economic deprivation, in addition to the nine protected characteristics listed in the legislation. This reflects the pockets of deprivation that exist across East Suffolk.

Screening of impact on different groups

	Groups	Likely Impact (positive/negative/no impact)	Reason for your decision
a	Age (Includes safeguarding issues)	Positive	The Sustainable Construction SPD will support and encourage design to meet the requirements M4(2)

			<p>and M4(3) of Part M of the Building Regulations for accessible and adaptable dwelling, and design which supports the needs of older people and those with dementia, which will have a positive impact for the elderly. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council’s customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation materials will be available to people of all ages and therefore will not discriminate in terms of age.</p>
b	Disability	Positive	<p>The Sustainable Construction SPD will support and encourage design to meet the requirements M4(2) and M4(3) of Part M of the Building Regulations for accessible and adaptable dwelling, and design which supports the needs of older people and those with dementia, which will have a positive impact on those with a disability. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council’s customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending</p>

			hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those with a disability.
C	Gender reassignment	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who have undergone gender reassignment.
D	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out

			above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are married or in a civil partnership.
E	Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. This consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are pregnant or on maternity leave.
F	Race	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out

			above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those from any racial background.
G	Religion or Belief	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different religious beliefs.
H	Sex	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out

			above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different sexual identities.
I	Sexual orientation	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those of different sexual orientations.
J	Socio-economic deprivation	No impact	The Sustainable Construction SPD provides guidance on topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials. It will therefore not discriminate against this group. Consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres and the Council has offered assistance in its publicity material for those unable to access the documents in the ways set out

			<p>above. This may involve sending hard copies by post, if needed. The consultation will therefore not discriminate against those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation.</p>
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Consultation and Engagement

6. There has been consultation during the preparation of the Sustainable Construction SPD. An initial informal consultation took place between 15th March 2021 and 26th April 2021, on the proposed scope and contents of the Sustainable Construction SPD. Members of the 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 public were consulted.
7. The consultation was advertised on the Council’s website, as well as on social media. A questionnaire, providing some background to the consultation and asking a series of questions, was published on the Council’s website. Town and parish councils, elected members and other organisations referred to above were notified directly by email or post. Hard copies of the document were also made available free of charge by post for those unable to access them online by contacting the Planning Policy and Delivery team as the usual locations for viewing documents were closed to the public, due to the pandemic.
8. The initial consultation was presented at East Suffolk Council’s Developer Forum meeting on 15th April 2021. The presentation covered the existing SPD for the former Waveney area that would be replaced, the Sustainable Construction policies in the Local Plans, the proposed scope and content of the new SPD and the opportunity for questions and discussion.
9. In total 26 individuals and organisations responded to the consultation. Between them they made 75 comments. The Council’s response and how the comments informed the preparation of the Sustainable Construction SPD is detailed in the Sustainable Construction SPD Initial Consultation Statement.

10. A second public consultation will take place from 1st November to 13th December 2021 on the Draft Sustainable Construction SPD. This Sustainable Construction SPD consultation will be held at the same time as the Affordable Housing SPD and Walking and Cycling Strategy consultations (note the consultation on the Cycling and Walking Strategy has a later end date of 10th January). Consultation letters and emails covering all three consultations will be sent to consultees on the Council's planning policy mailing list. Posters and press releases covering all three consultations will take place, and information will be contained in the Council's Planning and Building Control Newsletter. The planning policy mailing list includes 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.
11. Hard copies of consultation documents will be available online, in libraries and in the Council's customer service centres. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, contact details have been provided in publicity material along with an offer of assistance in accessing the consultation material, should anyone be unable to view the documents in any of the ways set out above.
12. In view of the ongoing Covid-19 social pandemic, the Council has set out measures to enable safe participation in the consultation and to ensure that those who wish to engage in the consultation are not disadvantaged. For those unable to view the consultation documents online, in libraries or in the Customer Service Centres, hard copies will be made available on request (free of charge) by post. In view of these measures the Council does not consider that this consultation will disadvantage any of the groups covered by this EQIA screening exercise.

Presentation in Different Languages

13. As part of a six-week period of formal consultation, the document will be published on the Council's website, with hard copies available on request for those unable to access it online. The document may be requested in a different language. When such requests are received the Customer Services Team will be involved with ensuring this request is actioned.

Proposed Changes

14. The Council will analyse responses received during the public consultation and will make any appropriate changes as a result of comments received.

Conclusion

15. No negative impact upon any group with protected characteristics or experiencing socio-economic deprivation was identified and therefore a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.