

EqlA #249

The details of an EqlA and its associated actions, actions and attachments.

1. Project/Activity Information

Collection name	Planning
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed	Statement of Community Involvement and Local Plan Preparation
EqlA type	Project
Current status	Completed
Service Area	Planning
Purpose of project	To define how the Council will involve residents in plan making and consideration of planning applications and the preparation of the Local Plan, to engage with a wide range of residents and any other interested parties and to take into account their views regarding policies and future development
Who is the project intended to benefit?	Residents that would like to be involved in the Local Plan process and comment or review planning applications.
What outcomes should be achieved	The planning team, residents and any person with an interest in future policies and development in North Tyneside is able and has the opportunity to obtain accessible information and make their views known.

2. Groups Impacted

Does the project / activity impact on the following groups?

Service Users

No

Carers or family of service users

No

Residents

Yes

What is the estimated number of residents impacted?

1001 +

What is the estimated impact level on the residents?

Low

Additional comments for residents

This EqlA relates to engagement on proposals for development and plan making. As a result, involvement and engagement in that process may be impacted but there are unlikely to be any direct medium or high impacts.

Visitors

Yes

What is the estimated number of visitors impacted?

251 - 1000

What is the estimated impact level on the visitors?

Low

Additional comments for visitors

Visitors in this context assumed to be attendees at public engagement events.

Staff

Yes

What is the estimated number of staff impacted?

1 – 20

What is the estimated impact level on the staff members?

Low

Additional comments for staff members

Visitors in this context assumed to be attendees at public engagement events.

Partner organisations

Yes

What is the estimated number of partner organisations impacted?

Unknown

What is the estimated impact level on the partner organisations?

Low

Additional comments for partner organisations

There will be organisations that are interested in the creation of a new Local Plan for the Borough.

3. Evidence gathering and engagement

What evidence has been used for this assessment?

Internal evidence

North Tyneside engagement guidance

Demographic information for the borough

The planning team maintains a list of planning consultees including a range of stakeholders and other contacts with an interest in plan making in the Borough

External evidence

Census Data

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Government Guidance on Plan Making
Planning Advisory Service on Consultation and Engagement
The Town and Country Planning Regulations

Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this activity?

Yes

If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?

Input from the Policy, Performance and Research team and Communities and Inclusion.

Is there any information you don't have?

No

All evidence attachments that have been added to this EqIA

There are no attachments for this EqIA

All evidence links that have been added to this EqIA

No evidence links have been added to this EqIA

4. Impact on groups with different characteristics

Will the project/activity positively or negatively impact on each of the following groups

Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Age	Yes	Yes
Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment: Potential Negative Impacts - People of working age or those that have carer responsibilities are likely to have limited time availability for in-person engagement.		

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Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
<p>- Older people are more likely to need information in accessible formats and are less likely to have access to/use the internet and social media</p> <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <p>- The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.</p>		
Disability	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <p>- Based on previous experience of communication and engagement we understand that people with a range disabilities such as mobility and sensory are more likely to have accessibility needs and those who are neurodiverse or have learning needs are more likely to have communication and accessibility needs.</p> <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <p>- Well-planned engagements including the use of both online and in-person methods will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.</p>		
Gender reassignment	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <p>- The current climate surrounding issues of gender reassignment, which may make those in the process of or who have completed gender reassignment less likely to participate in in-person engagement activities, as they may feel concerned about harassment or prejudice.</p> <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <p>- The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.</p>		
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No
Pregnancy and maternity	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <p>- Those experiencing pregnancy and maternity may be less likely to attend in-person events due to health impacts and carer responsibilities.</p> <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p>		

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Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
- The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Race	Yes	Yes
Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment: Potential Negative Impacts - The relatively small and dispersed ethnic communities in North Tyneside can be harder to include. Language barriers may make it harder to participate. Potential Positive Impacts -The use of online and in-person engagement will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute. - The ability to request documents to be translated into another language will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Religion or belief	Yes	Yes
Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment: Potential Negative Impacts - Members of some faiths, may feel concerned about harassment or prejudice, which may make them less likely to participate in in-person or face-to-face events. - Holy days, festivals and religious commitments may limit participation. Potential Positive Impacts - The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Sex	Yes	Yes
Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment: Potential Negative Impacts - Women are more likely to have care responsibilities, which may make it harder for them to attend in-person/face-to-face events. Potential Positive Impacts -The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Sexual orientation	Yes	Yes
Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:		

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Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
<p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- LGB people may feel less comfortable attending in-person events due to fear of prejudice or harassment. <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The use of online and in-person engagement as well as well-timed will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Intersectionality	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Well-planned engagement activities will ensure that relevant demographics have their voice heard, data tracking will also highlight where issues have intersectional impact. <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is always a risk of over-representation of certain groups, as we know that some demographics are more likely to participate in engagement activities than others. Where there are intersectional barriers, there is a greater likelihood of residents not feeling comfortable participating in engagement activities, and therefore not being included within reports and feedback.		

Non-Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Carers	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Caring responsibilities may limit the ability to participate in engagement activities in-person or in a time-limited manner (i.e. an online session). <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Well-planned engagements will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		
Socio-economic disadvantage	Yes	Yes
<p>Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:</p> <p>Potential Negative Impacts</p>		

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Non-Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- May be less likely to have access to online activities.- Lack of public transport to locations for in-person engagement may limit participation. <p>Potential Positive Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Well-planned engagements both online and at different venues across the Borough will ensure that all relevant parties are able to contribute.		

5. Achievement of the Authority's Public Sector Equality Duty

Will the activity contribute to any of the following?

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment?

N/A

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?

Yes

How will it advance equality of opportunity?

Steps will be taken when carrying out engagement to increase equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This will be through making it as easy as possible for all residents to access information and respond to planning issues.

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?

Yes

How will it advance the fostering of good relations?

Engagement activities have the opportunity to build positive relationships between residents, communities and the Council.

6. Negative Impacts

All negative impacts logged against the EqIA

There are no negative impacts for this EqlA

7. EqlA Review

Date review of EqlA to be completed

01-04-2026

Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Responsible officer's directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Responsible officer's service area

Planning

8. Outcome of EqlA

Outcome

The proposal is robust, no major change is required

Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion

The proposed engagement relates to a draft Local Plan and Statement of Community Involvement which does not propose any actions but sets out a framework on how members of the public and organisations can engage with planning including adjustments to ensure information and engagement is accessible.

Actions

All actions that have been created for this EqlA

Action ID: 899

Action Title

Monitoring Characteristics

Action Type

Action to gather evidence or information to improve NTC's understanding of the potential impacts on people with protected characteristics and how best to respond to them

Due Date

01-Apr-2026

Status

To do

Assignee/Responsible officer

Ashley Bell

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Corporate Strategy and Customer Service

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Communities and Inclusion

Description

Continuing engagement and monitoring of characteristics of residents on the Our North Tyneside Voice mailing list and residents who take part in engagement activities. Feedback received on Issues Vision and Options identified disproportionate representation from older age groups, with overall responses received from a range of locations across the Borough, but relatively few from our most deprived wards. Continued measures to engage with specific voluntary and residents groups and direct engagement accessible to those with greater difficulty accessing written resources proposed. Ongoing engagement with young people also important. Ongoing monitoring is important to continue to understand and refine engagement methods

Action ID: 900

Action Title

EqIA Action Plan

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

Ensure all actions identified by the EqIA are incorporated into the engagement plan

Action ID: 901

Action Title

Engaging with protected characteristics communities

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

Continued engagement with communities with protected characteristics to build trust and develop relationships. In the previous consultation we worked with the youth council to get targeted consultation responses, we also distributed paper copies of consultation materials across 6 community hubs and libraries and sent out paper copies to Age UK when they requested it. We will continue these practices in the following consultations.

Action ID: 902

Action Title

Engaging with protected characteristics communities

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

Rejected

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

Continued engagement with communities with protected characteristics to build trust and develop relationships. In the previous consultation we worked with the youth council to get targeted consultation responses, we also distributed paper copies of consultation materials across 6 community hubs and libraries and sent out paper copies to Age UK when they requested it. We will continue these practices in the following consultations.

Action ID: 903

Action Title

Range of engagement times

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

Engagement activities are offered in a range of formats including online and paper surveys, events that are both in person and online which will take place at different times of day and days of the week and consider religious calendars. In the previous consultation we made surveys were available on the Our North Tyneside Voice and paper copies were available at 6 community hubs and libraries. In person events were organised for at 6 community hubs and libraries on both a Saturday and weekday. We will continue this in the next consultation stages and look to include more venues and some later weekday consultation events to increase accessibility.

Action ID: 904

Action Title

Accessibility Statement

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

We will use our accessibility statement to ask people to let us know if they need materials in another format, or to access the engagement in another way. In the previous consultation we included the accessibility statement in the Our North Tyneside Voice website and in all our surveys. In the next consultation we will ensure its included in all the documents individually.

Action ID: 905

Action Title

Accessible Communication

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Remove

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

This includes language and formats, using inclusive language, using the access statement, promoting engagement through community organisations. These

methods were applied in the previous consultation by working with comms and engagement for the language and formatting of public consultation materials, and engaging with organisations like Age UK and youth groups to promote engagement. Previous actions will be continued into the next stages of engagement and a further implementation of access statements on documents will be used.

Action ID: 906

Action Title

Accessible venues

Action Type

Action already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

Status

In Progress

Impact

Reduce

Assignee/Responsible officer

Annabel Hodgson

Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate

Regeneration and Economic Development

Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area

Planning

Description

We use accessible venues for in-person activities which includes consideration of location, culture, internal accessibility, microphones/aids etc. To create an inclusive and welcoming environment. In the previous consultation we used 6 community hubs and libraries spread across the borough. In future consultations we are looking to do more in person events in the locations which are likely to be more impacted by the

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plan.

EqlA History

This section shows the submission and approval history of the EqlA, including any rejections

Status	Actioned by	Actioned Date	Comments
Completed	John Sparkes	18/12/2025 08:38:48	
Approved by CEG Member	Anne Foreman	17/12/2025 18:25:40	
Submitted	Annabel Hodgson	17/12/2025 09:00:36	
Draft	Annabel Hodgson	16/12/2025 15:00:25	