



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Equality Impact Assessment Validation Decision Notice

EIA Reference Number	28/2010
Service, policy, or strategy	Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy
Element(s) assessed	Overall approach
Names of Assessors	Sue Rayden (LSP and LAA Manager) Sarah Blohm (Equalities Officer) Carol Blackwell (Partnership Development Officer)

Consider:

Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Was the service promoting equality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Could the service be improved in promoting equality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Are the customers' needs understood and met?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the summary report clear and easy to understand?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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The decision is to:

Validate

Not validate

*Further assessment
will be required
when Strategy actually
completed.*

The reason/s for the decision are: *please give details below*

Validation given – information correct

Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect

Not validated - screening error

Not validated – research/consultation error

Not validated – improvement error

Signed

U. Smit-Anwar

Designation

Corporate Director

Name

U. Smit-Anwar

Date

9/13/11

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Briefing Note

Name of service, policy, or strategy being considered	Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy
Element(s) being considered	Overall approach
Date of meeting	7 June 2010
Name of assessors	Sue Rayden (LSP and LAA Manager) Sarah Blohm (Equalities Officer)

The Assessment

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets the strategic direction and ambition for the area and medium term objectives for improving social, economic and environmental wellbeing. The SCS provides the framework that steers partners and partnership working. The Local Government Act 2000 specified a requirement to produce and review (from time to time) a Community Strategy. Renewed statutory guidance on the need for this strategy is outlined in "Creating strong safe and prosperous communities" 2008, including the change to a *Sustainable Community Strategy*.

While the duty to produce a strategy is on the local authority, the SCS is expected to be prepared by input through the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership (BASP), and is required to develop two specific elements:

- The long term vision
- Key priorities for the local area

Following extensive public and stakeholder consultation, and by using relevant evidence the partnership has agreed a Vision, details of which can be found at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/CommitteeDocs/Committees/Cabinet/20100323/A%20Vision%20for%20the%20Borough%20-%20Appendix%202.doc>

This vision will also inform the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

In order to identify and agree the key priorities for the local area the BASP Board developed through a workshop in March 2010 six broad themes as a focus for joint working towards the Vision. These themes were discussed further at the BASP conference in May 2010 with the relevant partners and will be developed further. The six themes are:

- Focussing on young people:
- Focussing on older people

Briefing Note

- Raising educational aspirations and attainment
- Encourage involvement and develop potential
- Ensuring good design
- Fostering environmental responsibility

Assessment Findings

The EIA briefing discussion agreed the following points:

- The SCS is the overarching strategy for the borough and will inform the strategic planning for the borough council and for partnership working in the borough.
- The SCS is high level and it needs to be decided where the EIA is best applied so that it can inform other plans and strategies – there is not yet sufficient “meat on the bones” to be able to carry out a meaningful and productive EIA at this point.
- Findings need to be taken through the decision-making process of both the borough council and BASP.

It was agreed that the next steps would be to:

1. Consider the outcomes from the BASP conference with regards to the priorities for joint working (LSP/LAA Manager)
2. Research other Equality Impact Assessments for SCSs and the Equality Framework for Local Government for best practice approaches (Equalities Officer)
3. Develop timeline for taking forward and applying the EIA within the review of the SCS (LSP/LAA Manager and Equalities Officer)
4. Report the proposed approach to the BASP Management Group (LSP/LAA Manager)

Justification

Although the Vision has now been adopted by the BASP, and the key themes have been agreed, there is insufficient detail to impact assess against equalities at this point. If the BASP Management Group agree with the above findings, it is proposed that the LSP/LAA Manager and Equalities Officer meet again to agree when a scoping/screening would be appropriate for the SCS, who to involve in the exercise and what elements of the SCS and associated work are most relevant.

Briefing Note

<i>Name of service, policy, or strategy being considered</i>	Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy
<i>Element(s) being considered</i>	Overall approach
<i>Date of meeting</i>	18 June 2010
<i>Name of assessors</i>	Sue Rayden (LSP and LAA Manager) Sarah Blohm (Equalities Officer) Carol Blackwell (Partnership Development Officer)

The Assessment

Discussion covered:

- the headline outcomes from the BASP Conference for SCS priorities
- the EIA of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Hampshire

Assessment Findings

The EIA briefing discussion agreed the following points:

It was agreed that the next steps would be to:

1. Research other Equality Impact Assessments for SCSs (Partnership Development Officer)
2. Develop timeline for taking forward and applying the EIA within the review of the SCS (LSP/LAA Manager and Equalities Officer)
3. Report the proposed approach to the BASP Management Group (LSP/LAA Manager)
4. Seek involvement of partners in taking forward the EIA – through the Multi Agency Diversity Forum (LSP/LAA Manager)

Justification

There is insufficient detail to impact assess against equalities at this point. To meet again following the BASP Management Group and refinement of priorities / actions within SCS.

