

## Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA311177939

Submitted: 05 March 2021 11:32 AM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** Formal review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** To continue the formal review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan (which started in 2019) to include a six-week public consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The initial assessment of the Plan is now complete, and we have proposed some changes that require consultation. Comments received during the consultation will be analysed and the proposed amendments redrafted accordingly before the next stages of the review process (including further consultation) are undertaken.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Enable inclusive economic growth, Help create great places to grow up, live and work

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Enable inclusive economic growth:** Enable Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries, Target economic development to areas of opportunity

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work:** Help secure sustainable development and protect the environment, Facilitate growing communities and new homes

**Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?:** a change to an existing policy, practice or project

**Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates:**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-waste-planning-policy/minerals-local-plan>

**Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-waste-planning-policy/minerals-local-plan>

### Assessing the equality impact

**Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision):** We have considered the content of the proposed changes to policies and sites within the reviewed Plan and the current pandemic situation and do not feel that any one community/protected group would be more affected than others. A six-week public consultation is part of the Plan process at this stage and will be undertaken in line with Planning regulations and Essex's own Statement of Community Involvement.

**Does or will the policy or decision affect:**

**Service users:** No

**Employees:** No

**The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities:** Yes

**Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?:** All Essex

**Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?:** No

**Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?:** No

**Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?:** No

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## Description of impact

**Description of Impact.** If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment

**I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics:** I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

**Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics:** Due to the current pandemic, council offices and libraries are either closed or running a reduced service which means no paper copies of the Plan are available to view during this consultation. This means the documents are only available online which could disadvantage those who do not have access to the internet. We have mitigated this by adding a sentence in letters and publicity asking those who cannot access the internet to contact us. Requests for paper copy versions of consultation documents would be duly considered.

## Age

**Nature of impact:** Adverse

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The elderly may not have access to or the ability to use the internet and may require paper copies of the consultation documents which are not available during the current pandemic.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We would consider requests for paper copies of documents.

## Disability - learning disability

**Nature of impact:** Adverse

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The disabled may not have access to or the ability to use the internet and may require paper copies of the consultation documents which are not available during the current pandemic.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We would consider requests for paper copies of documents.

## Disability - mental health issues

**Nature of impact:** Adverse

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The disabled may not have access to or the ability to use the internet and may require paper copies of the consultation documents which are not available during the current pandemic.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We would consider requests for paper copies of documents

## **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Adverse

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The disabled may not have access to or the ability to use the internet and may require paper copies of the consultation documents which are not available during the current pandemic.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We would consider requests for paper copies of documents.

## **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Adverse

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The disabled may not have access to or the ability to use the internet and may require paper copies of the consultation documents which are not available during the current pandemic.

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** We would consider requests for paper copies of documents.

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your EqlA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?:** No

## **Details of person completing the form**

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date EqlA completed:** 05/03/2021

**Name of person completing the EqlA:** Rebecca Rushmer

**Email address of person completing the EqlA:** Rebecca.Rushmer@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Place and Public Health

**Your service area:** Planning Service

**Your team:** County Planning

**Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** graham.thomas@essex.gov.uk