

## Equality Impact Assessment Form

Reference –

|                       |                 |                        |          |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| <b>Department</b>     | Growth          | <b>Version no</b>      | 1        |
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The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have **due regard** to the need to

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- foster good relations between different groups

## Section 1: What is being assessed?

### 1.1 Name of proposal to be assessed.

Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document

### 1.2 Describe the proposal under assessment and what change it would result in if implemented.

The Council has prepared a new draft Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to replace the existing SPD. This new SPD provides an up-to-date assessment of the different landscape character types and areas within the District. It provides details of the pressures and forces for change in each of these landscapes. It provides guidance and recommendations for developers, planners and landscape professionals about how change can be managed and mitigated – particularly in the design of new development and other landscape scale projects.

The new draft SPD has been prepared as the existing SPD is now dated and since it was adopted Natural England has produced revised guidance on how Landscape Character Assessment should be prepared. In addition, national planning policy and guidance has been revised – providing details of how the landscape should be taken into consideration when preparing local plans and determining planning applications for new development. Furthermore, there have been a number of

notable changes to the landscape in some locations across the district over the last 20 years and these need to be recorded and reassessed.

The SPD provides guidance and recommendations on how the landscape should be managed as part of new developments. It identifies key elements of the landscape that may need protecting, restoring, enhancing, and the mitigation measures which could be taken to reduce any potential impacts resulting from new development.

The guidance in the SPD is mainly targeted at developers, planning officers, landscape professionals and project officers. It may also be used by the general public, councillors, parish, town and village councils and other interested parties when responding to planning applications. It is a strategic document in scale and coverage rather than a project focused publication.

### 1.3 Stage 1 Assessment:

In order to assess whether the draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD requires a full EqlA, a stage 1 scoping assessment must be completed against the protected characteristics and additional considerations. This is outlined in **Table 1** below:

**Table 1: EqlA Stage 1 Scoping Assessment**

| <b>Protected Characteristics:</b> | <b>Impact<br/>Y/N</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Age                               | N                     |
| Disability                        | N                     |
| Gender reassignment               | N                     |
| Race                              | N                     |
| Religion/Belief                   | N                     |
| Pregnancy and maternity           | N                     |
| Sexual Orientation                | N                     |
| Sex                               | N                     |
| Marriage and civil partnership    | N                     |
| <b>Additional Consideration:</b>  |                       |
| Low income/low wage               | N                     |
| Care Leavers                      | N                     |

The Landscape Character Assessment involves a process of identifying and describing variations in the character across a landscape. The landscape is the result of the interaction between people and place which gives an area a local identity. The attributes which are used to assess character include natural, cultural

and perceptual considerations. The perceptual attributes take account of the sounds, smells, feel, preferences, associations and memories a landscape may invoke. It is acknowledged that landscape can be experienced and interpreted in different ways by each individual and so the assessment may vary to some extent depending on age, gender and race – however, the findings are high level, and the assessment was made against a set of established criteria which should have been applied without bias.

The assessment team which carried out the work were made up of a variety of ages and genders – this helped to reduce any potential biases in the assessment. The work was reviewed and cross-checked by a team made up of mixed characteristics.

## **Conclusion**

Consideration of the content of the SPD indicates that it is unlikely to have an impact on those with protected characteristics or those with additional considerations as set out in Table 1. This is because the SPD provides guidance on possible measures which can be taken by developers when preparing development schemes, but does not require specific actions – this would occur at the project level. There may be some positive indirect impacts, but these are not quantifiable at this stage. The guidance is informed by ensuring that the inherent character and qualities of Bradford's landscape can continue to be appreciated for all. An understanding of character can be used to ensure that any change or development does not undermine whatever is valued or characteristic in a particular landscape and help guide positive change that conserves, enhances, restores, or creates local character. Our understanding of landscape is informed by cultural, natural, perceptual and aesthetic considerations.

As a publication the SPD will be consulted upon in line with the requirements set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) but mindful that a newly updated SCI is due before the Council's Executive on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025. The Local Planning Authority is keen to ensure all members of the community can effectively engage in planning consultations. This will include supporting the use of assistive technology (such as a screen reader) and provision of material in different languages and alternative formats such as Braille, tape, audio, disc or large print.

## **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation**

It is very unlikely that there would be any differential adverse impacts on any sections of the community through the implementation of this SPD and no inequalities are identified through its implementation.

## **Advance equality of opportunity between different groups**

The SPD will help to protect, enhance, and restore the District's landscapes. It will offer guidance as to how changes to the landscape can be adequately mitigated. The possible measures which could be used to achieve these aims are unlikely to have any impact on the opportunity to advance equality between different groups. At a practical project level, this may include specific scheme or physical reasonable adjustments to support accessibility.

### **Foster good relations between different groups**

The SPD has been prepared with engagement with key organisations and representatives across the district and various disciplines. This has reflected the views and various interests of a range of different communities, stakeholders and individuals. A workshop was held with key council officers, nature conservation bodies such as Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; land management bodies including Yorkshire Water, National Farmers Union, other farming representative; statutory bodies - Historic England, the Environment Agency; West Yorkshire Ecology and Archaeology Services, and neighbouring Local Authorities. This workshop was used to obtain thoughts, ideas, and provide collaboration on the draft characteristics for each of the character areas.

A separate bespoke consultation on the Landscape Character Areas and Types was carried out with parish, town and village councils. This allowed members of those bodies to input into the work specifically in relation to the landscapes in which those particular parishes/villages/towns are located. This provided a chance to highlight issues specific to those areas and the communities which live there.