
Proposed Angus Local Development Plan: Equalities Impact Assessment

Committee Draft

January 2015

Introduction

1. The purpose of an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to help ensure that we do not discriminate and that where possible we utilise opportunities to promote equality, as well as all other human rights and good relations between groups.
2. An EqIA involves thinking through the potential consequences of policies and functions on both the identified equality target groups and society at large, making sure that as far as possible, any negative impacts are minimised or eliminated and that opportunities for promoting equality and respect for all other human rights are maximised.

Step 1: Statutory legal requirements affecting the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan?

3. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, requires Councils to prepare a development plan for their area. These plans must be updated every five years. Local development plans set out where most new developments will happen and policies that will guide decision making on planning applications.
4. The Proposed Angus Local Development Plan is a land use planning document, setting out the strategy which will guide future development across Angus for a period of five years and indications of growth for up to ten years. The plan allocates and safeguards land for future development and contains policies and proposals covering the principal land use issues affecting Angus. The document has been structured around the Community Planning Partnership's five priorities to demonstrate how the implementation of the Angus Local Development Plan will contribute towards meeting the vision and outcomes for the Angus area

Step 2: What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan?

Consultation

5. Consultation was carried out at pre- Main Issues Report (MIR) and formal MIR stages in accordance with the participation statement set out in the Development Plan Scheme.
6. An initial awareness raising and consultation exercise undertaken between October and December 2010 at the pre- Main Issues Report Stage provided opportunity for early engagement with a range of interest groups including key agencies, Community Councils and Community Planning Partnerships

and other Service Departments and helped identify potential issues to be addressed by the Local Development Plan. A series of member/officer workshops in 2010 and 2012 allowed local member discussion and input to identify key issues and outcomes.

7. Detailed consultation on the Main Issues Report including a series of consultation events with the general public, community councils and community planning partnerships, public exhibitions and publicity of publication of plan preparation was undertaken between November 2012 and January 2013. Follow up member/officer meetings were held in February/March and September/October 2014 to ensure member input and participation in drafting the Proposed Local Development Plan.
8. In carrying out consultation Angus Council sought to ensure that:
 - consultation arrangements were as inclusive, transparent and accessible to as many groups as possible
 - Information was provided early and in a format that allowed full consideration; and,
 - Communication was provided in a range of formats and locations, making use of electronic means including the Council website.
9. Consultation methods included the following:
 - Committee Reports
 - Press notices in local newspapers
 - Publication of Newsletter
 - Angus Council website
 - Social Media (Twitter)
 - Letters to a range of stakeholders including, key agencies, councillors, community councils, community planning partnerships
 - Information leaflets and posters
 - Questionnaire
 - Stakeholder workshops

Research

10. In preparing consultation documents and in preparing the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan account has been taken of a number of published plans, strategies and related policies and guidance including in particular: National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), Angus

Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement, Angus Economic Development Strategy, Angus & TAYplan Housing Needs and Demand Assessments, Angus Local Housing Strategy, Angus Core Paths Plan, Angus Housing Land Audit, Angus Employment Land Audit, Angus Retail Floorspace Study, Angus Town Centre Health Check Study, Angus Landscape Capacity Study, key agency guidance, demographic forecasts and projections and a range of land use and environmental research. A Monitoring Statement for the Angus Local Plan Review was also published in December 2011 to inform the development of the Angus Local Development Plan. Comparisons with other recently approved land use policies elsewhere in Scotland was also undertaken.

Feedback

11. Feedback from stakeholders including elected members, community councils and the general public on the Main Issues Report was reported to Council in March 2013 (Report 137/13 refers). No specific comments were raised from or relating to a particular 'protected characteristic' group. Further feedback will be obtained as part of the Proposed Plan consultation and examination process.

Step 3: Impacts on 'protected characteristics'

12. The impacts of the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan on the protected characteristics are outlined below. There will be positive impacts for all residents and businesses in Angus and in particular for those who come under the 'Age', 'Disability' and 'Race' category as follows:

Age

13. The LDP promotes the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment including better placemaking which will benefit all age groups as well as future generations. The plan seeks the provision of play areas, open space and green networks which will contribute towards healthier lifestyles and quality of life. The plan also promotes increased accessibility within new development by sustainable transport modes including public transport which will bring benefits for those age groups without access to a car. Promotion of a mix of house types and tenures will meet a range of housing needs.

Disability

14. The plan promotes increased accessibility within new development by sustainable transport modes including public transport with an emphasis on ease of access for people with restricted mobility.

Gender

15. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP apply irrespective of gender.

Gender re-assignment

16. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP apply irrespective of gender re-assignment.

Pregnancy/maternity

17. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP apply irrespective of pregnancy/maternity.

Marriage and civil partnership

18. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP apply irrespective of marriage and civil partnership.

Race

19. The positive impacts of the LDP will apply irrespective of race. The LDP safeguards existing gypsy/traveller sites which could positively impact this group.

Religion and belief

20. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP will apply irrespective of religion and belief.

Sexual orientation

21. No impacts. The positive impacts of the LDP will apply irrespective of sexual orientation.

Other

22. Land allocations and safeguarding land for development will increase opportunities for all people in Angus and foster economic growth to enable reasonable livelihoods for all irrespective of circumstances. Implementation of affordable housing will meet housing needs of low income groups, promotion of energy efficiency will help reduce living costs.

Step 4: Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the proposal could unlawfully discriminate against people.

23. No

Step 5: Can the proposal be seen to favour one section of the community or deny opportunities to another?

24. No

Step 6: Does the proposal advance or restrict equality

25. Yes - The proposal advances equality. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 places an obligation on Scottish Ministers and planning authorities to perform their functions (under the Act) in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and observe current equal opportunity requirements. This legislation came into force in early 2009.
26. The Scotland Act 1998 defines equal opportunities as: 'the prevention, elimination or regulation of discrimination between persons on grounds of sex or marital status, on racial grounds, or on grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, language or social origin, or of other personal attributes, including beliefs or opinions, such as religious beliefs or political opinions.'

Step 7: Are there any other actions which could have been taken to enhance equality of opportunity?

27. No

Step 8: Based on the work you have done, rate the level of relevance being allocated to the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan.

28. Medium positive impact as set out in Step 3 above.

Step 9: If during Steps 3 - 6 there has been an adverse impact identified, consider whether this can be justified

29. Not Applicable – no adverse impact identified.

Step 10: Do you need to carry out a further impact assessment?

30. No

Step 11: Make arrangements to monitor and review the impact assessment.

31. Consultation involving protected characteristic groups will be carried out for the Proposed Angus Local Development Plan and its relevant projects or proposals. This will include not only the period of representations on the Proposed ALDP, but also any subsequent consultation on Supplementary Guidance, Planning Advice Notes or development proposals. The policies and actions set out in the Proposed Plan will be monitored through the Action Programme, and a Monitoring Report will be prepared to inform the review of the ALDP.

Step 12: Where will the Equality Impact Assessment be published?

32. This assessment will be published with the Proposed Plan and will be available online, at Council offices and Libraries or on request from the Environment and Development Plan Team.

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