

Appendix D - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening Form



Screening determines whether the policy has any relevance for equality, ie is there any impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership*
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

<p>1. Policy/service/function title</p>	<p>Strategic Planning Policy – Infrastructure – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - CIL Expenditure Review – March 2024 One joint report and four separate Appendices for Babergh and four separate Appendices for Mid Suffolk.</p>
<p>2. Lead officer (responsible for the policy/service/function)</p>	<p>Christine Thurlow – Professional Lead – Key Sites and Infrastructure</p>
<p>3. Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?</p>	<p>New - in terms of Review Existing: Existing (see 5 below)</p>
<p>4. What exactly is proposed? (Describe the policy/service/ function and the changes that are being planned?)</p>	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - CIL Expenditure Framework– April 2018 was presented to both Councils Cabinets in March 2018 and at Council for both Councils in April 2018.It was reviewed and amended and the changes were adopted by both Councils in March 2019. A second third and fourth review of all the documents took place and was adopted respectively by both Councils in April 2020, March 2021 and July 2022 (Mid Suffolk) and October 2022 (Babergh) The fifth review occurred over the winter of 2022/23 and the changes were adopted by both Councils in March 2023.</p> <p>All the reports recommended approval of changes to the CIL Expenditure Framework, the CIL Expenditure Framework Communication Strategy and the timeline for the launch and the CIL Key dates Calendar, All documents were adopted by both Councils.</p>

	<p>However, it was also agreed that there would be a sixth review of these documents. This assessment considers the impact of this sixth review</p>
<p>5. Why? (Give reasons why these changes are being introduced)</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies have been collected since the implementation of CIL in April 2016. There is no prescribed way for Councils to decide upon the spending of money collected through CIL, so the Council has to agree their own approach.</p> <p>The adopted CIL Expenditure Framework, CIL Expenditure Communications Strategy and Timeline for its implementation and review were all agreed at Councils of both District Councils in April 2018 and amended through the first review in March 2019 and further amended through the second review in April 2020. A further review took place and the changes were adopted in March 2021. A fourth review took place in May and these changes were adopted by Mid Suffolk in July 2022 and by Babergh in October 2022. A further review (fifth) took place and the changes were adopted in March 2021</p> <p>.</p> <p>This report presents some amendments to the scheme designed by the Joint Member Panel who have also called for a further seventh review whilst Bid round 14 is in operation (October 2024) so that any changes can be in place before Bid round 15 (May 2025) commences.</p> <p>It is important that the scheme is kept under review to ensure that expenditure of the CIL is prioritised correctly particularly with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and separate Infrastructure Funding Statement for both Councils. These documents sit alongside the emergent Joint Local Plan which will allocate sites for development up to 2037.</p> <p>In this way the development that is carried out is sustainable as the harm from the development is mitigated by the infrastructure provision.</p> <p>All the Bids submitted for CIL funding are different and relate to different Parishes, different types of infrastructure and as both Councils are sovereign Councils, monies are collected recorded and spent separately.</p>

	<p>There are two Bid Rounds each year and each Bid has been validated screened for other forms of funding and then prioritised according to the agreed criteria. Each CIL Bid dependant on whether the spend is above or below £10,000 will be determined by Cabinet (above £10,000) or made under delegated powers (under £10,000) where the decisions will be presented to Cabinet for Cabinet to note.</p> <p>At least two CIL Expenditure Programmes are produced each year for each Councils Cabinets to consider so that delivery of infrastructure can be responsive to demand, and focus can be maintained on outcomes related to delivery of infrastructure supporting growth.</p>
<p>6. How will it be implemented? (Describe the decision-making process, timescales, process for implementation)</p>	<p>The processes and procedure including governance arrangements for CIL expenditure are set out in the CIL Expenditure Framework and the CIL Expenditure Communications Strategy with timescales set out in the associated CIL Key Dates document.</p> <p>The amendments proposed under cover of this report all address all three documents. The processes are described in 5 above</p>
<p>7. Is there potential for differential impact (negative or positive) on any of the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No Infrastructure provision is necessary to mitigate the harm from the impact of growth so that the development that is carried out is sustainable.</p> <p>Communities in general benefit from infrastructure provision and delivery and its provision generally causes positive impacts for that community that all can benefit from. It does not impact on a specific equality strand unless it has been particularly designed to do so.</p>
<p>8. Is there the possibility of discriminating unlawfully, directly or indirectly, against people from any protected characteristic?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No No</p>
<p>9. Could there be an effect on relations between certain groups?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No No</p>

10. Does the policy explicitly involve, or focus on a particular equalities group, i.e., because they have particular needs?	Yes No No
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If the answers are 'no' to questions 7-10 then there is no need to proceed to a full impact assessment and this form should then be signed off as appropriate.

If 'yes' then a full impact assessment must be completed.

Authors signature Christine Thurlow

Date of completion 29th January 2024

Any queries concerning the completion of this form should be addressed to the Equality and Diversity Lead.

* Public sector duty does not apply to marriage and civil partnership.