

## Stafford Borough Council

### Equality Impact Assessment Form (EIA)

See Guidelines on completing Equality Impact Assessment Forms

Equality Impact Assessment	
1	<b>Title of Function or Policy to be assessed:</b> StoneTown Centre Vision, A Framework for Regeneration, November 2005.
2	<b>Date:</b> 18.5.09
3	<b>Name of Lead Officer:</b> Ted Manders
4	<b>EIA Team:</b> Ted Manders Susan Pote
5	<b>Head of Service:</b> Ted Manders
6	<b>Existing, new or review:</b> Existing Framework. There are currently no plans for a review
7	<b>Set out the aims/objectives/purposes/outcomes of the function or policy, and give a summary of the service provided:</b>  Stone Town Centre Vision is an urban design and landscape framework. Its aim is to create a future vision for Stone town centre as a quality place for working, living and playing.
8	<b>Linked policies, functions: Are there any other functions, policies or services, which might be linked with this one for the purposes of this exercise?</b>  Local Development Framework Prosperity Strategy Conservation Area – Formal Designation Corporate plan
9	<b>Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population):</b>  The Framework is used by developers to influence future development and as guidance for the Borough Council Development Team. It impacts on residents, businesses and visitors to Stone and affects all users of the town centre.

If you have any queries about using Equality Impact Assessments, please contact:  
Tracy Redpath on 01785 619195 or email: [tredpath@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:tredpath@staffordbc.gov.uk)

<b>10</b>	<b>Within this table, state whether the policy or function will have a positive or negative impact across the following factors and provide any comments.</b>			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments
	Age			There is a potential for negative and/or positive impacts across each of the six equality strands due to the lack of an evidence base, it is difficult to be more specific.
	Disability			
	Gender			
	Race			
	Religion/belief			
Sexuality				
<b>11</b>	<b>What evidence do you have for the statements you have made above?</b>			
<p>The framework does not include an overarching statement about the six equality strands or the availability of the document in other languages or formats such as Braille. The document is only available on the website.</p> <p>There is some reference to the needs of specific equality groups or individuals within the Framework but it is unlikely that data is available for users of Stone town centre, particularly as tourism is widespread in the town. There is also no indication or evidence of consultation across each of the equality strands.</p> <p>The Framework does make mention of access for people with disabilities and for the mobility impaired. It states that improvements will be made to parking facilities for the mobility impaired (elderly, people with disabilities and parents with children) and improvements will be made to pedestrian routes with paving and ramps will be provided where appropriate. The Framework also mentions the provision of two playgrounds near the canal and this may have a positive impact for young children and parents/carers.</p> <p>The Local Development Framework will take into account housing needs in the town centre and will include provision for people with disabilities. Consultation will have taken place with the local access group regarding specific issues such as improvements to the canal towpath. All new developments within the town centre need to have a Design Access Statement. The Statements will specifically look at the needs of a full range of individuals within the community and future consultations will need to address each of the equality strands.</p>				

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With the limited evidence available it is not possible to state whether there are known or potential negative or positive impacts across each of the equality strands, with the exception of the examples stated above. Attempts to determine likely positive or negative impacts would be purely speculative. For example, the availability of street furniture is mentioned in the Framework, but it is unclear whether the needs of all user groups such as the elderly have been catered for. There is no mention of, or evidence that potential equality issues have been considered, such as baby changing and breastfeeding facilities, facilities for faith groups and suitable signage for people with visual impairments.

**12. From evidence given at Q.11 what actions, if any, will you need to take against each of the following equality strands:**

Any review of the Framework needs to include statements about:

- the six equality strands
- Availability of the document in other languages and formats such as Braille.

Consultation needs to take place with individuals, groups and professionals across each of the equality strands to secure an evidence base for known or potential positive or negative impacts. The Framework may need revising as a result of the findings from consultation and any revision should make reference to the needs of different user groups.

**Disability:**

**Race:**

**Gender:**

**Age:**

**Religion/belief:**

**Sexuality:**

**13. Briefly explain how the policy or function contributes to Community Cohesion by answering the following questions:**

- How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment?
- Does it or could it celebrate diversity?

- Will it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities?
- How will it help to prevent social exclusion?
- Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded?
- How will it provide good quality, inclusive services?

The Framework has a section on Access for All including public transport, cycle links, access from car parks, disabled access and this will help to provide equality of access to the town centre, as well as helping to prevent social exclusion. The availability of suitable housing and playgrounds in the town centre will also help to provide equality of access.

The Urban Design Principles' goal for image and identity is *'To strengthen the positive image and identity of the town centre as a means of improving local community, visitor and investor attraction and use of its facilities.'* For example, the Framework states that they will: *'Develop a diverse programme of outdoor activities and events for the Market Place to generate social interaction'*. This has the potential to promote good relations within and between communities and to promote general inclusion.

Other sections within the Framework (such as the Public Spaces and Activities section) also make reference to social interaction. For example, it is intended that *'Public spaces should be safe, provide interest and opportunities for social interaction through the day'*.

**14. Consultation:**

Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function or policy, who was involved and the outcome.

The Framework was produced following consultation with key interest groups, including developers, landowners, retailers, residents around Stone town centre, shoppers, elected members and Stone Town Council.

**Head of Service:**

I am satisfied with the results of this EIA

\*The findings will be referred to within Service Plans and targets built around these.

I agree to review the Action Plan after 12 Months

**Signature of Head of Service:**

**Completion of the Toolkit:**

**Action Plan**

Please list on this sheet the nature of any issues and any recommendation for actions that you plan to implement as a result of undertaking this Impact Assessment

<b>Issue Identified</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Name Lead</b>	<b>Date to be Achieved</b>
Lack of evidence base that the six equality strands were taken into account in formulating the Stone Town Centre Vision	Undertake a review of the Design Guide as part of future work programme.	Paul Windmill	Within next 2 years (end date 31/3/2011)

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