

Equalities Impact Assessment for the Draft Bootle Area Acton Plan

June 2023

Introduction

Sefton Council have agreed to produce an Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Bootle area. The purpose of the AAP is to address local land use planning issues in the Bootle area. The AAP sits within the existing Sefton Local Plan (April 2017).

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) identifies 9 different 'Protected Characteristics'. These are:

- (i) age;
- (ii) disability;
- (iii) gender reassignment;
- (iv) marriage and civil partnership;
- (v) pregnancy and maternity;
- (vi) race;
- (vii) religion or belief;
- (viii) sex; and
- (ix) sexual orientation.

In addition to these protected characteristics this assessment will also consider the impact on people from deprived backgrounds/areas as well as for care leavers.

The 2010 Act prohibits the direct or indirect discrimination of any person or group who has or shares a particular Protected Characteristic, where such direct or indirect discrimination occurs because of that particular Protected Characteristic.

Section 149 of the 2010 Act sets out a 'Public Sector Equality Duty' (the Duty) on all public authorities. The Duty requires that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have 'due regard' to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination; Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a Protected Characteristic and people that do not share it; and Foster good relations between people who share a Protected Characteristic and people who do not share it.

Accordingly, the Council will need to ensure that it discharges the Duty in its formulation and implementation of the AAP.

In light of the above, the Council has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the draft Bootle AAP. An EqIA is a way of assessing the impact, or likely impact, that a particular policy, procedure or decision will have on a particular group(s). EqIAs can therefore assist public authorities in identifying potential adverse or negative impacts on particular groups and the necessary action or steps required to, as far as possible, mitigate or eliminate such impacts and promote equality.

Sefton Added another protected characteristic – care leavers

This report

The purpose of this report is to assess the Equalities impact of the draft AAP. The report will assess the AAP Objectives and each of the 24 policies against each of the protected characteristics.

The report will assess whether there is any discriminatory impact on any of the protected characteristics against the policies and objectives of the plan and provide a short commentary explaining the conclusion reached. The Assessment will be as follows:

| Rating | What it means |
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| Neutral | No discriminatory impact for people with that characteristic. |
| Positive High | Positive discrimination for the characteristic that may have a some impact. |
| Positive Low | Positive discrimination for the characteristic that may have a significant impact. |
| Negative High | Negative discrimination for the characteristic that may have a significant impact. |
| Negative Low | Negative discrimination for the characteristic that may have a some impact. |

The Assessment

| Characteristic | Age |
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| Policy Number | Policy Name | Score | Comment |
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| BAAP1 | Design | Positive Low | Part of the policy focuses on improved accessibility. It is considered that this may have a positive impact upon elderly people, particularly those who are less mobile. |
| BAAP2 | Best Use of Resources | Positive Low | The focus on making buildings energy efficient and on solar gain may help elderly people who typically need to heat their homes more than younger people. |
| BAAP7 | Local Shopping Parades | Positive low | Having access to local shops and services can be very important for older people and particularly those who have limited mobility. This policy will hopefully help keep important parades from redevelopment. |
| BAAP8 | Getting Around | Positive low | It is considered that improving access to all forms of transport from new development, will benefit elderly with more limited mobility. |
| BAAP15 | Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development | Positive low | The policy is considered to have a greater positive impact upon younger working age people compared to other sections in the population because they are more likely to benefit from better access to job and skills training. |
| BAAP17 | Affordable Housing and Housing Mix | Positive low | The policy will delivery 100% of homes on larger schemes being accessible and adaptable. These will be better suited to people as they grow older. |
| BAAP18 | Housing for Older People and Supported Homes | Positive high | This policy will seek to meet some of the specialist housing needs for local older people and therefore is considered to be of benefit for local people. |
| All other policies are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. | | | |
| n/a | AAP Objectives | Positive low | Objectives 1, 2 and 4 are considered to benefit some older people compared with the rest of the population. |
| Equalities Assessment | Overall the AAP is considered to have a positive impact upon older people in a number of policies. These particularly relate to policies that involve improvements to accessibility. BAAP15 in helping provide local training and employment opportunities is likely to result in some benefits for younger working age people. There are not considered to be any parts of the BAAP that will have a negative impact upon any age groups. | | |

| Characteristic | Sex |
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| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon sex as a protected characteristic. |
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| Characteristic | | Disability/Limiting long term illness | |
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| Policy Number | Policy Name | Score | Comment |
| BAAP1 | Design | Positive low | Good quality design and good access should have some positive effect on people with limiting illness if it allows them good access to shops/services/facilities. |
| BAAP7 | Local Shopping Parades | Positive low | Having access to local shops and services can be very important for people who have limited mobility. This policy will hopefully help keep important parades from redevelopment. |
| BAAP8 | Getting Around | Positive low | It is considered that improving access to all forms of transport from new development, will benefit those with limited mobility as better accessibility should include those with personal mobility issues, including wheelchairs. |
| BAAP10 | Healthy Bootle | Positive low | The policy looks to help try and help improve health and so may help to reduce the amount of people with long term health issues. |
| BAAP15 | Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development | Positive low | This policy will be likely to have a positive impact upon care leavers. The policy links to the Social Value SPD and this will bring in training opportunities and jobs for the local community and particularly identifies disabled people and those with life-limiting illnesses as a priority. |
| BAAP17 | Affordable Housing and Housing Mix | Positive High | Having larger schemes deliver 5% of their homes as wheelchair accessible will be very advantageous for people in wheelchairs. It will allow for people in wheelchairs to be able to have brand new purpose built housing available. |
| All other policies are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. | | | |
| n/a | AAP Objectives | Positive low | Objectives 1,4 and 11 will likely achieve positive discrimination for people who are disabled and living with life-limiting illnesses. |

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| Equalities Assessment | Overall the AAP is considered to have a positive impact upon people with disabilities or long term illnesses in a number of policies. These particularly relate to policies that involve improvements to accessibility. There are not considered to be any parts of the BAAP that will have a negative impact upon any age groups. |
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| Characteristic | Race |
| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon race as a protected characteristic. |

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| Characteristic | Religion/belief |
| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon religion or belief as a protected characteristic. |

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| Characteristic | Sexual orientation |
| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon sexual orientation as a protected characteristic. |

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| Characteristic | Gender reassignment |
| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon gender reassignment as a protected characteristic. |

| Characteristic | | Pregnancy/Maternity | |
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| Policy Number | Policy Name | Score | Comment |
| BAAP2 | Best Use of Resources | Positive low | The policy is considered to have a positive impact compared to the rest of the population as households because very young children tend to need to heat their homes more in the winter. Encouraging energy efficiency and solar gain are considered to benefit parents if small babies. |
| BAAP11 | Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields | Positive low | It is considered that public open spaces and particularly children's play areas are very valuable for small infants and |

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| | | | improving access and facilities may be valuable for parents of very young children. |
| All other policies are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. | | | |
| n/a | AAP Objectives | Neutral | The objectives are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population |
| Equalities Assessment | Overall the AAP is considered to be mostly neutral for the protected pregnancy/maternity characteristic. However is some limited positive discrimination in BAAP2 and BAAP11. | | |

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| Characteristic | Marriage/Civil Partnership |
| Equalities Assessment | It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives in the AAP will have any discriminatory impact, (positive or negative) upon marriage or civil partnership as a protected characteristic. |

| Characteristic | | Deprived area/background | |
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| Policy Number | Policy Name | Score | Comment |
| BAAP1 | Design | Positive Low | Through driving up standards of design locally, this policy will likely discriminate positively for those from a deprived background. |
| BAAP3, 4, 5 & 6 | Bootle Central Area policies including "Bootle Central Area", "Bootle Town Centre", "Bootle Office Quarter" and "Civic and Education Quarters" | Positive Low | It is considered that the improvements proposed in the centre of Bootle, particularly the around the Canalside and the Strand will considerably discriminate in favour of those from a deprived background because it will greatly improve local facilities and opportunities. |
| BAAP7 | Local Shopping Parades | Positive low | Often people from deprived backgrounds have less access to private or public transport so strengthening local parades will be a more significant benefit for them than the rest of the population. |
| BAAP8 | Getting Around | Positive low | Often people from deprived backgrounds have less access to private or public transport so improving accessibility through development, particularly for walking and cycling will be a positive benefit for derived areas. |

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| BAAP9 | Nature | Neutral | The policy is considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP10 | Healthy Bootle | Positive low | Deprived communities typically have significantly greater numbers of residents in poor health. This policy is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities. |
| BAAP12 | Employment Land Provision | Positive low | Providing land for jobs is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP13 | Protection of Employment Land | Positive low | Protecting land for jobs is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP14 | Limiting the impact of Industry on Residents | Positive low | Some more deprived communities in Bootle are situated near employment uses. Making sure that they are not adversely impacted will benefit them more than the wider population. |
| BAAP15 | Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development | Positive low | Providing jobs and skills through development is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP17 | Affordable Housing and Housing Mix | Positive low | Providing affordable homes is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP19 | Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple | Positive low | Providing good quality flats and HMO bedsits for residents and avoiding poor quality HMOs and flats damaging local communities, is likely to result in positive discrimination for people from deprived communities compared to the rest of the population. |
| BAAP24 | Environmental Improvements | Positive low | Local environmental improvements are likely to have a positive impact upon deprived communities compared with the rest of the population by lifting their image and quality of environment. |
| All other policies are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. | | | |
| n/a | AAP Objectives | Positive high | Objectives 1-12 are considered to be positively discriminate towards people from deprived areas through improved opportunities and lifting the area. |

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| Equalities Assessment | It is considered that the AAP will have a positive impact upon people from a deprived background or areas for a variety of reasons. |
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| Characteristic | | Care leavers | |
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| Policy Number | Policy Name | Score | Comment |
| BAAP8 | Getting Around | Positive low | Young people are more likely to rely on public transport and other sustainable modes of transport and therefore this policy is more likely to benefit young people, including care leavers. |
| BAAP15 | Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development | Positive low | This policy will be likely to have a positive impact upon care leavers. The policy links to the Social Value SPD and this will bring in training opportunities and jobs for younger people and particularly identifies care leavers as a priority. |
| BAAP19 | Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple | Positive low | Young people are more likely to live in smaller accommodation, such as flats and HMOs, and this policy seeks to secure good quality conversions. |
| All other policies are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population. | | | |
| n/a | AAP Objectives | Neutral | The objectives are considered to have a neutral impact upon this characteristic compared to the rest of the population |
| Equalities Assessment | Overall the AAP is considered to have a mostly neutral impact upon care leavers. However it will have a positive impact in regards, to BAAP15. | | |

Key Findings

The EqIA has not identified many areas where there is an impact upon the protected characteristics. All of the impacts that have been identified are positive impacts. Most of the positive impacts relate to those with limited or reduced mobility due to either physical reasons (age, disability, illness) or finance (people from a deprived background). The plans to improve accessibility and design and also to improve facilities in the Bootle central area, whilst benefitting most residents, may have a greater positive impact for some of the characteristics.

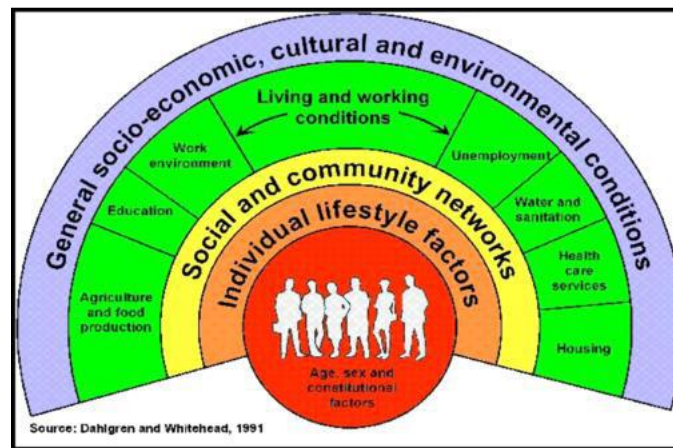
The AAP will be going out for public consultation in the second half of 2023 and will be updated as a result of that consultation and any further information that arises through evidence, studies or changes to legislation. The EqIA will also be subject to the same consultation and will be updated as the AAP is updated to continue to assess whether there are any equalities implications of any part of the plan.

Health Impact of the draft Bootle Area Action Plan

An equalities impact assessment is a statutory requirement and critical for assessing the effectiveness of the AAP. However it is also important to consider the health impacts of an AAP. The link between planning and health has been long established; indeed, the planning system itself owes its roots to 19th/ early 20th Century public health legislation. It does however need to be acknowledged that the planning process on its own can only play a small role in addressing public health issues. It can however make a contribution towards improved health outcomes alongside other corporate health policy drives. Assessing health impacts is never straightforward because so many factors can contribute towards good quality health. Four health indicators have been identified by which the wide-ranging impact upon health can be assessed. These are considered below.

Health Impact Indicators

The health assessment has been undertaken using a table (below) to assess the health impact of each individual policy. To assess the health impact of the Local Plan it is necessary to identify health determinates which each policy will be assessed against. Health determinates are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and wellbeing (Department of Health 2010). The diagram below illustrates the health determinates relating to people and places.



Each policy will be assessed against its impact on the health indicator. The health indicators are taken from the Health Determinants. These are as follows:

Healthy life style

- Provision of amenity space
- Provide infrastructure for Cycling and Walking
- Access to high quality leisure, recreation and health facilities
- Protect existing open/recreational space
- Reduce risk of ill health

Housing

- Meet housing need for all including travellers, older people, disabled
- Provision for affordable housing
- Adequate space provided - Reduce overcrowding
- Provide mix of housing
- Ensure amenity value of dwelling is maintained/improved

Environment

- Reduce Flood Risk
- Water security
- Sustainable means of transport
- Reduce need to travel and length of travel
- Mitigate existing pollution and minimise new pollutants
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment

Strengthen communities

- Regenerating areas of deprivation
- Encourage community involvement in planning process
- Improve employment opportunities and range of employment types
- Access to high quality local cultural and community facilities
- Support existing communities and allow communities to grow
- Protect/enhance local character
- Interconnectivity of settlements and wider area

- Support local retail centres

The scoring in the table will be as follows:

Positive (marked as +) – The policy will have a positive impact on that health indicator

Neutral (marked as 0) – The policy will have no impact upon that health indicator

Negative (marked as -) – the policy will have a negative impact upon that health indicator

There is a short section of comments to explain the scores.

| Policy Number | Policy Name | Healthy lifestyle | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Notes (where applicable) |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|---|
| BAAP1 | Design | + | + | + | + | The policy covers a wide range of themes and is considered to be positive on all of the indicators. |
| BAAP2 | Best Use of Resources | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | This policy scores highly for design. |
| BAAP3, 4, 5 & 6 | Bootle Central Area policies including “Bootle Central Area”, “Bootle Town Centre”, Bootle Office Quarter” and “Civic and Education Quarters” | + | 0 | + | + | The town centre policies will improve community cohesion and make better facilities available and more accessible for locals. |
| BAAP7 | Local Shopping Parades | + | 0 | + | + | Improvements and appropriate improvements to local shopping parades would have a number of benefits for local communities. |
| BAAP8 | Getting Around | + | 0 | + | 0 | The policy should help improving health through encouraging walking and cycling. |
| BAAP9 | Nature | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | The nature policy will likely improve mental health through improved biodiversity with schemes. |
| BAAP10 | Healthy Bootle | + | + | + | + | This policy brings together the whole wide reaching health benefits of the AAP. |

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| BAAP11 | Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields | + | 0 | + | + | Improving access to, and quality of, open space, will have wide ranging health benefits. |
| BAAP12 | Employment Land Provision | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Improved access to jobs is beneficial to health. |
| BAAP13 | Protection of Employment Land | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Protecting access to jobs is beneficial to health. |
| BAAP14 | Limiting the impact of Industry on Residents | 0 | + | + | 0 | Commercial operations can have a bad impact upon mental and physical health. |
| BAAP15 | Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Providing access to employment and skills for local people will likely have health benefits. |
| BAAP16 | Housing Land Provision | 0 | + | 0 | + | Providing good quality housing will normally be beneficial to health. |
| BAAP17 | Affordable Housing and Housing Mix | 0 | + | 0 | + | Providing housing for people in need of affordable housing should improve health outcomes. |
| BAAP18 | Housing for Older People and Supported Homes | 0 | + | 0 | + | Providing appropriate housing for older people that fits the needs of the area will likely have beneficial health outcomes. |
| BAAP19 | Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple | + | + | 0 | + | The policy seeks to improve living conditions for residents and neighbours. Likely to be beneficial to health in most areas. |
| BAAP20, 21, 22 & 23 | Site specific policies including: "Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor", "Bootle Village", "Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store" and "Coffee House Bridge". | 0 | + | + | + | These site specific policies will likely uplift the quality of the area. |
| BAAP24 | Environmental Improvements | 0 | 0 | + | + | This will likely improve the environmental quality of the area. |

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|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| n/a | AAP Objectives | + | + | + | + | The objectives are wide ranging but cover a whole range of health outcomes. |
| Summary | All of the AAP will be likely to directly or mostly, indirectly lead to improved health outcomes. It is important that the AAP is properly monitored so that it can be assessed whether these health benefits are achieved. There are no important health disbenefits connected to the AAP. | | | | | |