

Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Initial Screening Record 2021-2022

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework Consultation

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Tim Pritchard, Shrewsbury Programme Manager

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>The development and delivery of the Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework (SDF) is anticipated to have a positive impact on communities in Shrewsbury, Shropshire as a whole and to visitors to the town. It creates a collective vision and strategy, to help guide Shrewsbury's future. It sets the aims, aspirations, and vision for the Riverside area of Shrewsbury and sets an aspiration for the regeneration of the site and for the future ensuring that Shropshire Council takes a proactive approach alongside communities and businesses towards the development within the town.</p> <p>Whilst the Smithfield Riverside SDF is primarily regenerative and economically focused there are many benefits in terms of equality, diversity and social inclusion associated with a resilient economy such as increased employment opportunity, provision of housing, infrastructure benefits, facilities and utilities, climate change considerations and well-being improvements all being key drivers of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, which was used as a basis for developing the SDF.</p> <p>Positive impacts would be intended for a variety of intersecting groupings (Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Sex, and Social Inclusion) through future engagement process and through the delivery of specific projects sitting within the Smithfield Riverside SDF itself. This would be due to an emphasis on developing the area as a better place to live, to do business, to access and to move about in.</p>

Furthermore, there is potential for an increase in the positive impact in equality terms from low to positive, for the groupings of Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion and Belief, and Sexual Orientation, if efforts are made to engage with faith communities and LGBT communities and with those undergoing gender reassignment.

The intention is also to refer to, and use of, other policy strands within the Council and for partners, around movement of people, access, healthy lifestyles, use of green space, air quality issues, public protection measures such as the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place within Shrewsbury, and other safeguarding policies. Taken together, these wider societal and environmental considerations will contribute towards helping to create a welcoming environment across all groupings within the community, thereby aiding the intended positive impacts.

There will be ongoing efforts, in this and future related projects, to engage with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings, particularly where low levels of responses to public consultation have been received to date and where responses are limited to particular demographics.

There will also be efforts made to engage with groupings and their advocates where links may usefully be made with specific target groups such as people with health problems and people with disabilities, people with caring responsibilities, and older people. These may range from blue badge holders to those who need ready access to toilets and changing facilities, such as people with Crohn's disease, families and carers of babies and children. Actions may then be more readily identified from evidence gathered to enhance the positive impact of the Strategy for these groupings, leading to better outcomes overall for communities in Shropshire.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

As part of the delivery of the redevelopment, it will be necessary to develop a clear communications and relationship plan to underpin the priorities and objectives of the Smithfield Riverside SDF. This will involve regular communications with residents and businesses and engage key stakeholder groups and networks.

The Smithfield Riverside SDF proposal is fully intended to be a working document, especially against an ever changing economic and political landscape.

The Council is also keeping abreast of other approaches across the country, particularly those undertaken because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and as we emerge collectively from it, to maximise shared learning for all such approaches. West Midlands local authorities were approached for views in terms of equality impacts, and the differing and sometimes conflicting impacts to balance for people in Protected Characteristic groupings.

For example, blue badge holders are recognised as facing disadvantage in terms of reduced parking provision, whilst individuals with learning disabilities and their

carers, who did not have mobility concerns, were considered to find positive impacts with regard to more space in which to move around and reduced road safety concerns. Initial feedback from Lichfield has highlighted the importance of extra blue badge spaces and public toilet provision in town centre car parks.

Consultation for the Smithfield Riverside SDF was developed with the engagement of key stakeholders, businesses, and partners. Framed around the Big Draw, a two-day design workshop, stakeholders and the public were invited to shape ideas and create a working vision for the site. Through this vision LDA Design and Shropshire Council created a deliverable framework which reflects the needs and aspiration of Shrewsbury. The current consultation supported the transition to the next stage in the process of finalising the Riverside Strategic Development Framework document.

The consultation process was predominantly informed by the online Commonplace interactive portal (website address). Publicised on social media and with local press releases, responses were collated via Commonplace portal, as well as incorporation of written feedback for those respondents preferring to not use the online facilities.

The location of the bus station drew a number of negative responses from participants in the consultation and groups representing public transport that supported a reconsideration, within the Smithfield Riverside SDF, of the necessity for a town centre location. The concerns raised have been addressed with a bus station facility being worked into the revised Smithfield Riverside SDF and an intention to ensure that its revised location integrates with other modes of transport locally. More detailed work on the future bus station is required and a specialist study will need to be undertaken to address the impacts of any changes to the current facility.

Projected and ongoing work will include efforts to strengthen engagement with people in Protected Characteristic groupings and people at risk of social exclusion, to maximise positive health impact benefits for individuals and for the wider community, and to define and deliver actions accordingly to mitigate any negative impact and enhance positive impact of the proposals as they progress.

From an outcomes angle for communities, engagement with all Members as community leaders, and through Cabinet and Portfolio Holder, will help the service area and therefore the Council to ensure that information, feedback and concerns are raised through a variety of channels and that actions may then be identified as necessary to seek to mitigate any negative impacts

Associated ESHIAs

An initial Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA) completed for the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan was signed off on 17th October 2018 with a follow up ESIIA in January 2021.

This current ESHIA for the Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework serves to review the consultation work undertaken, and to ensure that future public

consultations continue to engage with Protected Characteristic Groupings, especially in light of the current and ongoing Covid-19 restrictions limiting face to face engagement practices.

ESIAs were also previously carried out in relation to the development of the Council's Economic Growth Strategy 2017 -2021, before and following public consultation. These provide useful additional context for the overall strategic policy of the Council towards economic growth as an integral element of place shaping approaches across the County.

The current ESHIA in relation to Oswestry Masterplan Development is also of pertinence.

ESIAs in relation to the Local Plan Partial Review provide further complementary detail not least with regard to longer term approaches to infrastructure planning and provision. Given the policy implications associated with highways those undertaken in related service areas with regard to transport and movement strategies are also relevant.

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

Whilst the Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework is primarily regenerative and economically focused there are considered to be many benefits in terms of equality, diversity and social inclusion associated with a resilient economy such as increased employment opportunity, provision of housing, infrastructure benefits, facilities and utilities, climate change considerations and well-being improvements.

The Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework (SDF) provides a bold and ambitious vision for one of Shrewsbury's prime development sites. The Shrewsbury Big Town Plan (BTP) Masterplan Vision 2020 identifies the Riverside site's significance and its opportunities in achieving the place shaping aspirations of the BTP. As a core component in delivery of an investible masterplan for Shrewsbury, the Smithfield Riverside SDF establishes the spatial framework for development that will sustain and enhance the economic, social and environmental performance of the town centre and increase its attractiveness to businesses, investors and developers, residents, and visitors, whether for leisure, tourism, culture or to work.

Detail relating to both climate change and health and well-being consideration is provided within the BTP Masterplan Vision and is subsequently reflected in the Smithfield Riverside SDF and is summarised below:

- Access to river and other waterside places to promote health and well-being, biodiversity and enjoyment of outdoor space is at the heart of the proposed concepts for Shrewsbury presented within the Masterplan Vision. **The**

Smithfield Riverside SDF's emphasis is on open public green spaces, a natural river front and a place-based approach.

- There is recognition that flooding is of huge importance in how any new development will be designed, used, and managed. The high flood level will potentially rise significantly here in the future due to the effects of climate change. **The Smithfield Riverside SDF sets out principles for design that are planned to mitigate against the impacts of flooding against the site, while considering the flood plain, and impact upstream or downstream to the site.**
- The scale of additional movement generated by the masterplan proposals is significant and will require sustainable solutions and not overwhelm existing travel patterns. A series of planned, phased and deliverable measures have been identified to transition to facilitate this additional demand and respond to the climate change emergency. **Ease of access and movement within the area are fundamental to the Smithfield Riverside SDF with pedestrian focussed routes and cycle ways being integral to the framework.**
- In the town centre, movement will be transformed to rival places across the UK and Europe, revitalising the relationship with the river, creating new places and squares that are connected by a well-designed, accessible and active streets for all users. People will be able to move more freely, within a low traffic zone, the climate change considerations being further supported by easy movement across the site.
- Improving on Shrewsbury's position as one of the healthiest places to live, this will positively influence people's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as increasing land values, improving air quality and responding to the climate emergency.



Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i> Tim Pritchard Shrewsbury Programme Manager		17 January 2022
<i>Any internal service area support*</i> Hayley Owen Growth Programme and Strategy Manager		20 January 2022
<i>Any external support**</i> Mrs Lois Dale Rurality and Equalities Specialist Sarah Dodds Feedback and Insight Team Leader Adrian Cooper Climate Change Taskforce Leader		15 th January 2022

**This refers to other officers within the service area*

***This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues*

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i> Tim Pritchard Shrewsbury Programme Manager		17 January 2022
<i>Accountable officer's name</i> Tracy Darke Assistant Director Economy and Place		7 February 2022

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description

Shrewsbury is the county town for Shropshire, with a current population of 72,700 – with an intention, as detailed within the Local Plan Review, as the strategy centre of Shropshire requiring the building of over 8,000 additional homes and 100 hectares of employment land to 2038.

Shropshire is the second largest inland rural county in England, after Wiltshire, and one of the most sparsely populated. Shropshire is approximately ten times the size of all the Inner London Boroughs put together (31,929 hectares), with 1.01 persons per hectare and a population of 323,136 for a terrain covering 319,736 hectares (Source: ONS Census 2011, mid year estimates for 2019).

Around 57.2% of Shropshire's population lives in rural areas. There are 17 market towns and key centres of varying size, including Ludlow in the south and Oswestry in the north, and Shrewsbury, the central county town. An additional dynamic is that, unlike for example Cumbria, the population is dispersed across the entire county, rather than there being any areas where no one lives at all.

The Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework fits into the wider plans for Shrewsbury and the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan (BTP) Masterplan Vision 2020. The Masterplan Vision identifies the Riverside site's significance for its opportunities and provides a bold and ambitious vision for one of Shrewsbury's prime development sites. It has been developed with the engagement of key stakeholders, businesses and partners.

Smithfield Riverside SDF works to establish the spatial framework for development that will sustain and enhance the economic, social and environmental performance of the town centre and increase its attractiveness to businesses, investors and developers, residents, and visitors; whether for leisure, tourism, culture or to work. Whilst plans are included in the SDF to demonstrate the application of the proposed principles, the plans are purely illustrative and not definitive design solutions. These will evolve as sites come forward for delivery.

Smithfield Riverside is an ambitious plan for the regeneration of the Smithfield Shopping Centre and surrounding area. The site has the potential to not only to transform this unloved site, but to act as a catalyst for regeneration and growth of the whole of Shrewsbury. Smithfield Riverside SDF will truly capitalise on the strategic advantages afforded to it, including its waterfront setting and its proximity to the railway station, to become a distinctive and vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood that will become a centrepiece of Shrewsbury's economic and residential growth.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The intended immediate audience for the Smithfield Riverside SDF is everyone who lives in, works in or visits Shrewsbury. Given its county town status, there is also a wider impact on Shropshire as a whole and its direct hinterlands and

therefore all groupings within the community, as well as those who serve them.

By this we mean the Council, town and parish councils, the wider business and education sector, the voluntary and community sector, the health and social care sector, and organisations and bodies involved in enabling and facilitating economic growth.

We also mean neighbouring authorities, including Herefordshire and Telford and Wrekin Council as part of the triumvirate of local authorities in the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, and authorities across the borders into Wales.

The main stakeholder groups were identified as follows:

- Local businesses
- Business partnerships and support bodies, including the Shropshire Business Board.
- Partnerships and providers of learning, skills and employment opportunities
- Rural and environmental partnerships
- Public sector bodies
- Town and Parish councils
- Housing providers
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations (including social enterprise)
- Shropshire Council Elected Members and Officers
- Members of the public
- Members of Parliament in Shropshire
- Organisations with strategic and cross boundary economic and environmental interests, including neighbouring local authorities, and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)
- A range of stakeholders, including the development industry, local businesses, housing associations, utilities companies, transport and the land-based sector.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive or in order of priority and will be added to and amended as and when appropriate, including through feedback from consultation.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The regeneration of Smithfield Riverside is supported by a robust planning context formed by the Core Strategy and SAMDev Plan and the current Local Plan Partial Review. Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy outlines the site as a redevelopment priority for the county, outlining the development of the site must have full regard of flood impact across the site.

The site is framed by the wider town centre vision (the Big Town Plan) which supports the delivery of a mixed-use waterfront destination. This SDF is also cognisant to the West Midlands Combined Authority Design Charter which aims to deliver characterful, connected, resilient and healthy places within the region.

The site has had several planning applications associated with it and in 2012 a proposal for the comprehensive redevelopment of the Riverside site as another shopping centre

was approved. The proposal created significant amounts of retail, leisure and food & beverage on the site accessed via an elevated walkway which linked into the Darwin and Pride Hill Shopping Centres at level 3.

The anchor tenant withdrew which resulted in the development never being implemented.

Over the last three years Shrewsbury has been the focus of an ambitious plan for growth, driven forward by the Big Town Plan. This plan outlined a series of regeneration priorities for the town, which included the regeneration of Smithfield Riverside. The plan has since been progressed in 2020 to drive forward the aspirations of the original Big Town Plan. A key driver of both these plans has been to create balanced growth and enhance the place.

Smithfield Riverside remains part of a town wide approach to growth which divides the town into six character areas.

The plan outlines that, alongside Frankwell, Smithfield Riverside is key to unlocking some of the significant improvements in Shrewsbury, whilst overcoming the challenging topographical and flooding issues in the area.

The plan outlines a set of aspirations for the site which have been aligned with the work undertaken by LDA Design:

- Vibrant new living, leisure and work destination with a riverside setting, which is connected to the historic town centre, Station Square and Quarry Park.
- Riverside Park and new public spaces which put the river at the heart of the masterplan.
- Re-routing of traffic from Smithfield Road to enable safer, quality pedestrian and cycle routes along a riverside green park.
- Regenerating north riverbank car park site to sensitive high-quality mix used developments
- Improve Frankwell roundabout green setting.

In developing the Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework, a competitive tender process was undertaken to work with the Council and develop the framework.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Framed around the Big Draw, a two-day design workshop, stakeholders and the public were invited to shape ideas for the site and create a working vision for the site.

Through this vision LDA Design and Shropshire Council have created a deliverable framework which reflects the needs and aspirations of Shrewsbury.

The consultation process was undertaken via the 'Commonplace' online portal ([Community Forum – Smithfield Riverside Development Framework – Commonplace](#)), as well as consideration of written representations received, predominantly via email.

Views were collected via the “Commonplace” online portal consultation which was open between 19th October 2021 and 13th December 2021.

The Commonplace portal focussed on nine key lines of enquiry, namely:

- 1 Introduction and Feedback
- 2 Design Principles
- 3 Getting Around
- 4 Spaces and Streets
- 5 The River
- 6 An area to live
- 7 Business and Innovation
- 8 Illustrative Vision
- 9 Summary and next steps

The consultation focused on identifying key elements, observations and recommendations within the report, prepared by the consultancy team led by LDA Design. The consultation process was articulated with narrative, text, maps, CGI's (computer generated images) and other visual/diagrammatic aids to seek views and feedback from the public and wider stakeholders.

Key Audiences

Residents of Shrewsbury and Shropshire

Businesses

Elected Members

Stakeholders – public and private sector who have been involved and contributed to the 2018 initial Shrewsbury Big Town Plan plus other interested parties including investors (public and private) that can add value to the masterplan

Voluntary and community organisations

Visitors to the town

The outcomes of the consultation were analysed by Shropshire Council's Insights Team and presented to the SBTP Partnership for discussion with recommendations. The outcome of the consultation and a final version of the report will be reported to Cabinet in February 2022.

Commonplace online portal consultation resulted in 637 comments/contributions from 226 participants which included members of the public and local businesses. 10 provided written/email responses.

The consultation respondents were predominantly aged 55 or over and of White British backgrounds. It has been noted that there is some lack of diversity within the respondent sample, and this will be considered in the planning for future engagement as the Development Framework and linked programmes are taken forward. Targeted stakeholder engagement and ongoing equality and social inclusion impact assessments will also be important elements of future work.

The location of the bus station drew a number of responses that supported a reconsideration of the necessity for a town centre location. The new

report for approval demonstrates and affirms that the concern to keep a bus station has been addressed with a bus station facility being worked into the revised SDF and an intention to ensure that its revised location integrates with other modes of transport locally.

A number of baseline analysis documents were cited in the original Riverside SDF document. There have been amendments to the list of documents available in the appendices; the changes are to be approved by Cabinet.

Under the theme 'Design', 66% were either satisfied and 22% were unsatisfied. Top themes from comments included the importance of sympathetic and appropriate design and development, and positive feedback for the vision/design principles importance. There was a necessity to re-emphasise, within the new document, that the SDF is illustrative only and sets out to inform the aspirational opportunity for the regeneration of the site being indicative of the principles not the definitive solution. This emphasis has been an amendment throughout the new Riverside SDF document.

Public transport routes are particularly important to many of the respondents, with buses being central to a low emission future and this is further developed through the Movement Strategy.

The majority of participants were either satisfied or very satisfied with the proposals to make the area a low traffic zone, and climate change consideration of reducing vehicular traffic and increasing pedestrian led prioritisation, easing access and movement, was clearly supported as, of the 7 regeneration objectives set out within the Strategic Development Framework, the most important to the respondents is "Pedestrian led" (prioritising pedestrians and cyclists).

There was public interest in Air Quality and Flooding issues which are aspects that the framework can help to address allowing for adaptation and resilience according to climate change and are current items of consideration within the Movement Strategy).

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)			✓	
<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including autism and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)			✓	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			✓	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				✓
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				✓
<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring			✓	

responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)			✓	

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation? .			✓ Smithfield Riverside SDF – a primary objective is to make the town a healthier and more sustainable town	
Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .				✓
Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social,			✓ Smithfield Riverside SDF	

<p>economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p> <p>.</p>			<p>objectives promote making the town a healthier and more sustainable town, and a better place to live and work. E.g. include promoting walking and cycling through improvements and public realm enhancements.</p>	
<p>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p> <p>.</p>				✓

Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts

Whilst this Plan is regenerative and economically focused there are considered to be many benefits in terms of equality, diversity and social inclusion associated with a resilient economy such as increased employment opportunity, provision of housing, infrastructure benefits, facilities and utilities, climate change considerations and well-being improvements.

The Regeneration Objectives are as follows:

Wellbeing

CELEBRATE THE RIVER SEVERN, making the most of waterfront setting providing opportunities for biodiversity through the site and ensuring the site responds to and is resilient to flooding. Greening and Landscape High quality landscaping and planting permeates throughout the site, bringing the natural elements associated with the riverbank into the urban setting and giving the spaces a higher amenity value enhancing health and well-being.

Improving on Shrewsbury's position as one of the healthiest places to live, this will positively influence people's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as increasing land values, improving air quality and responding to the climate emergency.

PEDESTRIAN LED, a place which is designed for and prioritises pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles. The square also serves as a landing point for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge, which then directs foot traffic toward the town centre via a terraced landscape bridging across to the town centre via a new street cut through the Darwin Shopping Centre. Other routes to the town centre are enhanced by removing internalised access where possible and consolidating existing pedestrian routes to better define them and concentrate pedestrian footfall. The streetscapes are pedestrian focussed with the central boulevard serving as a high-street environment, while widening of the streets at key arrival locations and junctions provides transition spaces for pedestrians to orient and dwell. Popular and well received by consultation respondents was the consideration of public and green spaces particularly for the opportunities for riverside public spaces.

A HIGHLY LIVEABLE TOWN CENTRE, contributes towards a town centre with a vibrant mixed use community and delivers an excellent quality of life within a beautiful urban setting. The River Severn serves as the primary focus for the creation of public realm, faced by a new public garden and square.

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS, a highly connected site which knits seamlessly into the town centre and the surround urban context. Public transport routes are particularly important to many of the respondents of the consultation with buses being central to a low emission future and this is further developed through the Movement Strategy.

CHARACTERFUL & DISTINCTIVE, achieving distinctive modern design which responds to the unique character of Shrewsbury.

Climate Change

INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE, a design which embraces new technology and contemporary design to deliver sustainability and distinctiveness, representing a positive future and spearheading innovation in Shrewsbury including in regard to climate change. The Smithfield Riverside SDF and any future delivery and procurement will include Council expectations on new developments and that design is done in such a way to address climate change.

RESILIENT TO CHANGE, delivering an adaptable plan which can respond is resilient to economic and environmental change. Smithfield Riverside will be recognisably sustainable and responsive to the environmental sensitivities of the site, as well as responding to the climate emergency and its impacts in Shrewsbury. The site will be designed and planned to mitigate against the impacts of flooding across the site, as well as being resilient to the effects of climate change.

The Smithfield Riverside Strategic Framework provides opportunity for Council to bring forward low carbon/zero carbon development and links to other emerging initiatives such as heat networks.

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes.

These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Part One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, an ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the Protected Characteristic groupings and our tenth category of Social Inclusion. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation e.g., young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive. Examples of this approach include the Great Outdoors Strategy, and the Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called due regard of the needs of people in protected characteristic groupings

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be significant negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to carry out a full report, or Part Two assessment. This will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Part Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government.

The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions you will take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

This assessment encompasses consideration of social inclusion. This is so that we are thinking as carefully and completely as possible about all Shropshire groups and

communities, including people in rural areas and people or households that we may describe as vulnerable.

Examples could be households on low incomes or people for whom there are safeguarding concerns, as well as people in what are described as the nine 'protected characteristics' of groups of people in our population, e.g., Age. Another specific vulnerable grouping is veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces, who face particular challenges with regard to access to Health, to Education, and to Housing.

We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council. Help and guidance is also available via the Commissioning Support Team, either for data, or for policy advice from the Rurality and Equalities Specialist. Here are some examples to get you thinking.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

For example, there may be a planned change to a leisure facility. This gives you the chance to look at things like flexible changing room provision, which will maximise positive impacts for everyone. A specific grouping that would benefit would be people undergoing gender reassignment

Carry out an equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.
- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, where we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

For example, you may be involved in commissioning a production to tour schools or appear at a local venue, whether a community hall or somewhere like Theatre Severn. The production company should be made aware of our equality policies and our expectation that they will seek to avoid promotion of potentially negative stereotypes. Specific groupings that could be affected include: Disability, Race, Religion and Belief, and Sexual Orientation. There is positive impact to be gained from positive portrayals and use of appropriate and respectful language in regard to these groupings in particular.

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is a relatively new area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for individual and for communities, and as such we are asking service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, much as they have been doing during 2020-2021, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities. A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a common-sense idea. It is a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and

partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly, to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and well-being.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk more, and as there will be reductions in emission leading to better air quality.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and well being of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. Often a health promoting approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further information on the use of ESHIAs: please contact your head of service or contact Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist and Council policy support on equality, via telephone 01743 258528, or email lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk.

For further guidance on public health policy considerations: please contact Amanda Cheeseman Development Officer in Public Health, via telephone 01743 253164 or email amanda.cheeseman@shropshire.gov.uk