



Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

Pre-submission
draft plan

Equalities Impact Assessment

June 2017

| Equality Analysis Evidence Document | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------|--|--|
| Title: What are you completing an Equality Analysis on? | | | | | |
| Draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (the draft Plan) | | | | | |
| Why are you completing the Equality Analysis? (please tick any that apply) | | | | | |
| Proposed New Policy or Service Yes – new planning policies. | | Change to Policy or Service | | Service Review | |
| Version Control | | | | | |
| Version control number | 3 | Date | 27 6 17 | Reason for review (if appropriate) | |
| Risk Rating Score (use Equalities Risk Matrix and guidance) **If any of these are 3 or above, an Impact Assessment must be completed. Please check with equalities@wiltshire.gov.uk for advice | | | | | |
| Criteria | | Inherent risk score on proposal | | Residual risk score after mitigating actions have been identified | |
| Legal challenge | | 4 | | 1 | |
| Financial costs/implications | | 3 | | 1 | |
| People impacts | | 2 | | 1 | |
| Reputational damage | | 3 | | 1 | |
| Section 1 – Description of what is being analysed | | | | | |

A planning policy document, the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (hereafter referred to as the draft Plan) is being prepared for the purposes of maintaining and ensuring both surety and continuity of housing land supply across Wiltshire, and thereby is supporting the implementation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS). A separate and complimentary document, the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan, addresses the identification of land for strategically important housing and employment and sites at Chippenham.

It is the purpose of this draft Plan to implement the framework set by the WCS by allocating additional housing sites across Wiltshire in accordance with the settlement strategy as outlined in Core Policy 1. In this respect it should be noted that the draft Plan is only seeking to address the indicative housing requirement of 36,950 dwellings (excluding Chippenham Town and West Swindon) as expressed in Table 1 of Core Policy 2 of the WCS through allocating housing sites across the Wiltshire in accordance with the spatial strategy for the period up to 2026. In addition, the draft Plan assesses the existing “settlement boundaries” or “Limits of Development” as they are referred to in Core Policy 2.

In planning for future housing numbers the proposals of this draft plan seek to:

- Provide for the most sustainable pattern of development that minimises the need to travel and maximises the use of sustainable transport.
- Align residential development to the employment growth planned for in the WCS, in order to achieve a greater self-containment of communities and not intensify out commuting.
- Manage development to ensure the timely delivery of supporting infrastructure to mitigate the impact of growth on local services and facilities.
- Protect, and where possible enhance, the natural, historic and built environment within and surrounding settlements whilst recognising development on the periphery is inevitable.
- Respect the individual identities of villages, towns and cities within the landscape setting and their relationship to one another through careful site selection and requiring high quality design and landscaping.

Section 2A – People or communities that are currently **targeted or could be affected** by any change (please take note of the Protected Characteristics listed in the action table).

The overarching strategy is to deliver homes, infrastructure, services and employment opportunities to meet the needs of all who live, work and visit Wiltshire.

The draft Plan has been developed in an open and collaborative manner in line with the Council's Statement of Community involvement which can be found here:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/statementofcommunityinvolvement.htm>.

A record of the consultation that has taken place can be found in the Consultation Statement available at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk>. To date it has included the following consultation:

| Consultation | Date | Who was consulted |
|--|---|---|
| Formal Regulation 18 consultation on the scope. | 24 th March – 5 th May 2014 | All listed below |
| Informal consultation draft proposals for amending settlement boundaries. | 28 th July – 22 nd September 2014 | Town and parish councils |
| Informal consultation on the site assessment methodology and initial site options. | 23 rd February – 31 st March 2015 | Town and parish councils Developers Specialist bodies |
| Informal consultation on the approach to large villages. | 30 th June – 12 th August 2015 | Town and parish councils Developers Specialist bodies |
| Landowner Deliverability Consultation. | 21 st August – 2 nd October 2015 | Landowners |
| Formal consultation on the draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations DPD. | 14 July – 22 September 2017 | All listed below |
| Examination. | TBC | TBC |

The consultations are based on the Wiltshire Council database, national legislation and national policy advice, and specialist knowledge within the organisation. This includes:

- All citizens
- Local town and parish councils
- All elected representatives
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Highways England
- Relevant health providers
- Relevant water and sewerage providers
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of disabled persons in the local authority's area
- Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

For example, as well as the standard local, regional and national consultees, for the draft Plan the following hard to reach groups were consulted:

- Young Persons Council
- Friends Families and Travellers
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Group
- The Showman's Guild of Great Britain
- The Selwood Housing Disability Group
- SCOPE - Partnership & Community Development Division
- Kennet and Avon Boating Community
- Diabetes UK Wiltshire

All the above groups can be directly affected by the volume, location and design of new homes in Wiltshire. The techniques used to ensure effective engagement are covered in Section 3 below – add.

Section 2B – People who are **delivering** the policy or service that are targeted or could be affected (i.e. staff, commissioned organisations, contractors)

The draft Plan contents were discussed at various meetings with Council development management officers. Those elsewhere in the Council affected by or involved in the delivery of the draft Plan were primarily involved in the preparation of relevant evidence papers by providing information and by establishing requirements for Plan policies and proposals. This was in addition to the formal internal process followed for the development of all new Council policy.

Section 3 –The underpinning **evidence and data** used for the analysis (Attach documents where appropriate)

Prompts:

- What data do you collect about your customers/staff?
- What local, regional and national research is there that you could use?
- How do your Governance documents (Terms of Reference, operating procedures) reflect the need to consider the Public Sector Equality Duty?
- What are the issues that you or your partners or stakeholders already know about?
- What engagement, involvement and consultation work have you done? How was this carried out, with whom? Whose voices are missing? What does this tell you about potential take-up and satisfaction with existing services?
- Are there any gaps in your knowledge? If so, do you need to identify how you will collect data to fill the gap (feed this into the action table if necessary)

The context for the evidence and data used to inform this process is set within the National Planning Policy Framework at paragraph 158:

Each local planning authority should ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area. Local planning authorities should ensure that their assessment of and strategies for housing, employment and other uses are integrated, and that they take full account of relevant market and economic signals.

All parts of the draft Plan are based on the collation and analysis of evidence, including the evidence base studies that underpin the WCS and an evidence base dealing specifically with the delivery of housing.

The draft Plan is based on sound research and analysis to identify the challenges faced in site allocation. All conclusions reached in the draft Plan are founded on analysis of the evidence, which is available for scrutiny.

The evidence behind the site allocation process is published for each Community Area in the form of Community Area Topic Papers. A number of other evidence based topic papers are published alongside the community area topic papers and include:

- Settlement Boundary Review Methodology
- Site Selection Process Methodology
- Housing Land Supply
- Developing Plan Proposals
- Viability Assessment
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Duty to Cooperate Report
- Consultation Reports

The draft Plan is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (as referred to above) prepared by Atkins which is an evidence tool to assess and inform the development of the draft Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal promotes sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging Plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

***Section 4 – Conclusions** drawn about the impact of the proposed change or new service/policy

Prompts:

- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this equality analysis? Please state them and also feed these into the action table
- Be clear and specific about the impacts for each Protected Characteristic group (where relevant)
- Can you also identify positive actions which promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between groups of people as well as adverse impacts?
- What are the implications for Procurement/Commissioning arrangements that may be happening as a result of your work?
- Do you plan to include equalities aspects into any service agreements and if so, how do you plan to manage these through the life of the service?
- If you have found that the policy or service change might have an adverse impact on a particular group of people and are **not** taking action to mitigate against this, you will need to fully justify your decision and evidence it in this section

The actions necessary to be delivered as part of this equality assessment are those enshrined within the strategy. The strategy will have a significant positive impact on the large majority of the communities of Wiltshire. The draft Plan attempts to tackle existing inequalities highlighted in the evidence base, including in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, through the delivery of the following outcomes:

- Enabling the delivery of a significant amount of affordable housing and increased access for all to a decent affordable home.
- Enabling the delivery of improved and accessible services and infrastructure for the benefit of all members of the community.
- Undertaking consultation exercises which engages minority and hard to reach groups.
- Protection and enhancement of the built heritage and natural environment, in line with the WCS.
- Buildings that provide access for all.
- Viable communities that are robust and resilient, and able to retain important local services.
- Provision of meaningful transport choices for those who are marginalized due to not having a private motor car.
- To ensure that the elderly have good access to vital services.
- To ensure rural communities are able to retain locally valued services and facilities.
- To ensure that larger scale development in Wiltshire is complemented by smaller scale and appropriately managed development in rural areas to ensure that benefits are felt across Wiltshire as a whole

The draft Plan involves allocating new development sites in Wiltshire, and there will be people who feel disadvantaged by the development that will take place. This is expressed through representations in response to public consultations which object to new development. The strategy has been devised to where possible address such concerns, and represents a proportionate response to the need to deliver the housing requirement for Wiltshire while protecting the quality of life of existing residents. Furthermore potential environmental impacts will be mitigated through careful master planning.

Development could lead to pressure on existing services in smaller rural settlements, and could have an impact on access to services in more rural locations. One of the challenges will be retaining existing and valued services in the smaller settlements, and the WCS includes protective policies which seek to aid the retention of local services in Core Policies 48 and 49.

The ongoing continuous improvement of the service in producing all planning policies will be supported by the following measures:

- Staff training including up to date legal briefing on case law related to the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act and other employment legislation.
- Ensure an in depth understanding of the diversity of the community and discuss with experts from a national and local level how best to engage hard to reach groups.
- Target easy to understand and participatory activity sessions, such as 'planning for real' more widely and at specific groups.
- Ensure lead-in and frontloading is designed into the process, to give the time to identify and set up positive dialogue and partnerships with under-represented groups.
- Training of communication skills best suited to each audience - consider training of consultation champions.
- Ensuring that time, costs and resources are properly planned for and that consultation is not reduced to a 'tick-box' exercise.
- It is important to seek balanced views and where there is conflict a forum which promotes debate between parties with differing views is extremely beneficial in seeking compromise. For example between residents who want no new growth and the small business community, who feel that their voice in favour of growth is not being heard.

***Section 5 – How will the outcomes from this equality analysis be monitored, reviewed and communicated?**

Prompts:

- Do you need to design performance measures that identify the impact (outcomes) of your policy/strategy/change of service on different protected characteristic groups?
- What stakeholder groups and arrangements for monitoring do you have in place? Is equality a standing agenda item at meetings?
- Who will be the lead officer responsible for ensuring actions that have been identified are monitored and reviewed?
- How will you publish and communicate the outcomes from this equality analysis?
- How will you integrate the outcomes from this equality analysis in any relevant Strategies/Polices?

This assessment will sit alongside other key documents such as the Sustainability Appraisal, and Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations and form part of a toolbox that has informed the development of the draft Plan. The outcomes of the draft Plan will be reviewed and monitored through the Authority’s Monitoring Report (formerly the Annual Monitoring Report).

Environmental scanning will be used to ensure that changes in law, guidance and best practice are identified and incorporated wherever relevant.

This Equality Impact Assessment forms an important background document to the draft Plan. It will be published and be available through the statutory pre-submission consultation. It will be available to view on request.

The draft Plan aims to positively manage growth in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy and seek to ensure sufficient homes are available to meet housing needs. The proposed consultation has been designed to help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan.

When the draft Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination, Regulations require that it will be accompanied by an Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken as part of a process to help the Council ensure that it discharges its section 149 duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a “relevant protected characteristic” and persons who do not share it; foster good relations between persons who share a “relevant protected characteristic” and persons who do not share it.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Completed by: | Dave Milton | |
| Date | 20.9.16 | |
| Signed off by: | Georgina Clampitt-Dix | |
| Date | 27.6.17 | |
| To be reviewed by: | Jane Macey/Tracy Smith | |
| Date | 27.6.17 | |
| For Corporate Equality Use only | Compliance sign off date: | |
| | Published on internet date: | N/A |

| Equality Impact Issues and Action Table (for more information on protected characteristics, see page 7) | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Identified issue drawn from your conclusions (only use those characteristics that are relevant) | Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts? | Who is responsible for the actions? | When will the action be completed? | How will it be monitored? | What is the expected outcome from the action? |
| Age | | | | | |
| <p>Sites identified in the draft Plan will deliver sustainable communities that will be delivered in line with the adopted policies of the WCS, which have been designed to safeguard all sectors of the community.</p> <p>The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless including younger people.</p> <p>New education provision is planned to support the additional demand that growth in housing numbers will bring and to match a skilled workforce to the expansion in employment.</p> <p>Groups representing young people have been targeted through</p> | <p>WCS Core Policy 46 sets out the strategy for meeting the needs of Wiltshire's vulnerable and older people.</p> | <p>Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities.</p> | <p>Up to 2026</p> | <p>Authority's Monitoring Report</p> | <p>Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA)¹</p> |

¹ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/annualmonitoringreport.htm>

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| the consultation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Council • Youth Action (Wilts) • Youth Development Centre | | | | | |
| Disability | | | | | |
| <p>Strategic sites identified in the draft Plan will deliver sustainable communities that will be delivered in line with the adopted policies of the WCS, which have been designed to safeguard all sectors of the community.</p> <p>Disabled groups have been targeted through the consultation including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disabilities Services Wiltshire • Transport for the Disabled and Pensioner's Voice • The Multiple Sclerosis Society • Royal National Institute of Blind people • Action on Hearing Loss Diabetes UK Wiltshire | The new development proposed by the draft Plan will be required to meet the relevant nationally set access standards, (part M of the Building Regulations) and will not result in discrimination of people with disabilities. | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Gender Reassignment | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender. | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of Wiltshire | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of marital status | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of Wiltshire | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of this issue. | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of Wiltshire | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Race (including ethnicity or national origin, colour, nationality and Gypsies and Travellers) | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of race. Ethnic groups have been targeted through the consultation including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends Families and Travellers • National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Group • The Showmans Guild of Great Britain • Turkish Community Union | WCS Core Policy 47 deals with providing for Gypsies and Travellers. A Gypsy and Traveller DPD is also under preparation. The draft Plan will complement the policies of both documents. | Spatial Planning | 2016 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Providing adequate pitches and facilities for the Gypsy and Traveller needs within Wiltshire |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Romania's Horses • The Romany Gypsy Council • Gypsy Council | | | | | |
| Religion and Belief | | | | | |
| <p>The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of religion</p> <p>Faith groups have been engaged through the consultation process. The Plan does not propose any form of development that would obstruct faith groups functioning as normal.</p> <p>Religious groups have been targeted through the consultation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sikh Missionary Society • Dauntsey Church | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of Wiltshire | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Sex | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of sex. | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of Wiltshire | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
| Sexual Orientation | | | | | |
| The draft Plan provides for policies which will provide equal opportunities for all, | Implementation of the draft Plan to provide the homes necessary to meet future needs of | Partnership working between Wiltshire Council, Developers, local communities. | Up to 2026 | Authority's Monitoring Report | Delivering the homes necessary, including affordable and lifetime homes to meet |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| regardless of sexual orientation | Wiltshire | | | | objectively assessed housing needs as assessed in the Strategic Housing Market assessment (SHMA) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|

Calculating the Equalities Risk Score

You will need to calculate a risk score twice:

1. On the inherent risk of the proposal itself (without taking into account any mitigating actions you may identify at the end of the Equality Analysis (EA) process)
2. On the risk that remains (the residual risk) after mitigating actions have been identified

This is necessary at both points to:

- Firstly, identify whether an EA needs to be completed for the proposal and;
- Secondly, to understand what risk would be left if the actions identified to mitigate against any adverse impact are implemented

Stage 1 - to get the inherent risk rating:

1. Use the [Equalities Risk Criteria Table](#) below and score each criteria on a scale of 1 - 4 for the impact and their likelihood of occurrence. Multiply these 2 scores together (Likelihood x Impact) to get an overall score (this will range from 1 – 16)
2. Consider the scores and if any one aspect scores a 4 then this is likely to outweigh all others. On this basis determine the appropriate score for the risk. (Do not average scores since this will almost always produce a low – average scored risk)
3. Assess whether you need to carry out an EA using the guidance box below (stage 2)
4. If an EA is needed (i.e. your score is above 3) make a note of your inherent score using the red, amber, green colour rating on the [first page](#) of the EA template

Stage 2 - to identify whether an EA needs to be carried out:

If your inherent risk score is:

12 – 16 or Red = High Risk. **An Equality Analysis must be completed.** Significant risks which have to be actively managed; reduce the likelihood and/or impact through control measures.

6 – 9 or Amber = Medium Risk. **An Equality Analysis must be completed.** Manageable risks, controls to be put in place; managers should consider the cost of implementing controls against the benefit in the reduction of risk exposure.

3 – 4 or Green = Low Risk. **An Equality Analysis must be completed**

1 – 2 or Green = Low Risk. **An Equality Analysis does not have to be completed**

Stage 3 - to get the residual risk rating:

1. Repeat the process above when mitigating actions have been identified and evidenced in the [table](#) on page 3 to calculate the **residual risk**
2. Make a note of the residual risk score using the red, amber, green colour rating on the [first page](#) of the EA template

Equalities Risk Criteria Table

| <p align="center">Impact</p> <p>Criteria</p> | <p align="center">Low</p> <p align="center">1</p> | <p align="center">Moderate</p> <p align="center">2</p> | <p align="center">Substantial 3</p> | <p align="center">Critical</p> <p align="center">4</p> |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Legal challenge to the Authority under the Public Sector Equality Duty</p> | <p>Complaint/initial challenge may easily be resolved</p> | <p>Internal investigation following a number of complaints or challenges</p> | <p>Ombudsman complaint following unresolved complaints or challenges</p> | <p>Risk of high level challenge resulting in Judicial Review</p> |
| <p>Financial costs/implications</p> | <p>Little or no additional financial implication as a result of this decision or proposal</p> | <p>Medium level implication with internal legal costs and internal resources</p> | <p>High financial impact - External legal advice and internal resources</p> | <p>Severe financial impact - legal costs and internal resources</p> |
| <p>People impacts</p> | <p>No or Low or level of impact on isolation, quality of life, achievement, access to services. Unlikely to result in harm or injury. Mitigating actions are sufficient</p> | <p>Significant quality of life issues i.e. Achievement, access to services. Minor to significant levels of harm, injury, mistreatment or abuse OR, low level of impact that is possible or likely to occur with over 500 people potentially affected</p> | <p>Serious Quality of Life issues i.e. Where isolation increases or vulnerability is greatly affected as a result. Injury and/or serious mistreatment or abuse of an individual for whom the Council has a responsibility OR, a medium level of impact that is likely to occur with over 500 people potentially affected</p> | <p>Death of an individual for whom the Council has a responsibility or serious mistreatment or abuse resulting in criminal charges OR High level of impact that is likely to occur, with potentially over 500 people potentially affected</p> |
| <p>Reputational damage</p> | <p>Little or no impact outside of the Council</p> | <p>Some negative local media reporting</p> | <p>Significant to high levels of negative front page reports/editorial comment in</p> | <p>National attention and media coverage</p> |

Equalities Risk Matrix

| | | Acceptable | | Actively managed | |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| Impact | Critical (4) | 4 | 8 | 12 Significant Risk | 16 Significant Risk |
| | Substantial (3) | 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 Significant Risk |
| | Moderate (2) | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| | Low (1) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | Very Unlikely (1) | Unlikely (2) | Likely (3) | Very Likely (4) |
| | | Likelihood of occurrence | | | |

The protected characteristics:

Age - Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds). This includes all ages, including children and young people and older people.

Disability - A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Gender reassignment - The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

Race - Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Religion and belief - Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Marriage and civil partnership - Marriage is defined as a 'union between a man and a woman'. Same-sex couples can have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships' and get married (from 29th March 2014) at certain religious venues. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters.

Pregnancy and maternity - Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant. Maternity refers to the period of 26 weeks after the birth, which reflects the period of a woman's ordinary maternity leave entitlement in the employment context.

Sex (this was previously called 'gender') - A man or a woman.

Sexual orientation - Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes

You are also protected if you are discriminated against because you are **perceived** to have, or are **associated** with someone who has, a protected characteristic. For example, the Equality Act will protect people who are caring for a disabled child or relative. They will be protected by virtue of their association to that person (e.g. if the Carer is refused a service because of the person they are caring for, this would amount to discrimination by association and they would be protected under the Equality Act)

This document was published by the Spatial Planning team, Wiltshire Council, Economic Development and Planning Services.

For further information please visit the following website:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshsgsiteallocationsplan.htm>