



# Working towards a Core Strategy for Wiltshire

## Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Document

Equalities and Diversity Impact assessment  
June 2012

## Equality Impact Assessment

### Stage 1: Screening for Relevance

#### **Name of the Strategy / Policy / Procedure / Practice**

'Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (February 2012)

Author; Dave Milton BA (Hons) MA MRTPI Cert Mgt (Open).

Name: Dave Milton	Job title and directorate: Spatial Planning Manager, Economy & Regeneration	Date: June 2012	Signature: 
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#### **Does the strategy / policy / procedure / practice require an equality impact assessment (EIA)?**

##### **1. What are the main aims, purpose and outcomes of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice and how do these fit in with the wider aims of the organisation?**

To provide a spatial planning strategy that will guide development decisions for the next 20 years in Wiltshire. The underpinning idea of the strategy is to strengthen communities, wherever possible, by maintaining and increasing the supply of jobs to ensure that Wiltshire remains strong and prosperous. The underlying principles of the strategy seek to manage future development to ensure that communities have an appropriate balance of jobs, services and facilities and homes. To ensure that the growth required to meet local needs is managed so that it is in the most sustainable locations, protects both the natural and built environment and tackles local social problems such as areas of social exclusion and deprivation.

The strategy has been closely aligned to the priorities of the organisation, particularly in seeking to deliver resilient communities; to plan for economic recovery; reducing disadvantage and inequalities; to ensure that affordable housing is provided as a priority; and tackling the causes and effects of climate change. It has been endorsed by Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and Council on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

##### **2. How will these aims affect our statutory duty to:**

This document is a statutory requirement on authorities and will help meet the statutory duties related to equalities and diversity in the following manner:

- Promotes equality of opportunity by ensuring that there is an adequate supply of housing to meet all ranges of affordability. Ensures that new development is planned in or close to service centres thereby promoting access to services. Plans for the expansion of employment opportunities to provide local opportunities for all.
- Includes policies requiring new buildings to take account of the needs of all in society including the mobility impaired and elderly.
- The strategy has been developed by reaching out consultatively to all sectors of society to request their views.
- The statutory process has been subject to quality control and accreditation to ensure, amongst other matters, compliance with Human Rights laws.

##### **3. Are there any aspects of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice, including how it is delivered, or accessed, that could contribute to inequality? This should relate to all areas of our statutory duties.**

The Strategy has been carefully designed to be appropriate to the diverse society and provide opportunities for all without any discrimination. The process is based on identifying and removing

barriers to participation in community.

**4. Will the strategy / policy / procedure / practice have an impact (positive or negative) upon the lives of people, including members of particular communities and groups? What evidence do you have for this?**

The strategy will have a significant positive impact on the large majority of the communities. It will:

- Ensure that there is access for all to a decent affordable home. New homes will have been delivered in the most sustainable locations and will have been designed to respect the local character and the primary focus of new housing development will have been at Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury and the market towns
- Greatly increase local employment opportunities
- Protect and enhance the best of the built heritage and natural environments, including the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site from inappropriate development; and avoiding encroachment on the Western Wiltshire Green Belt and protection of the separate identity of the outlying villages to the west of Swindon
- Ensure that buildings provide access for all
- Ensure communities are viable, robust and resilient and retain important local services
- Provide meaningful transport choices for those who are marginalised due to not having a private motor car.
- Will deliver improved sport and recreational facilities for all
- Seek to broad the night-time economy within town centres, especially Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge, which will have refocused to provide greater choice for families and tourists and respect the quality of life of residents

The process does involve allocating new development sites and there will be people who feel they are disadvantaged by the proximity of new building to their own homes. The strategy has been devised to where possible address such concerns, and represents a proportionate response to the need to deliver some 37,000 homes in Wiltshire while protecting the quality of life of existing residents. The concerns have been raised by individuals and groups during the consultation process.

**5. Are particular communities or groups likely to have different needs, experiences and attitudes in relation to the strategy / policy / procedure / practice?**

While the Strategy is planned to be of benefit to all, it does in places cater for the different needs of groups, such as ensuring that all new homes are built to 'Life-time Homes' standards to meet the needs of Wiltshire's vulnerable and older people.

**Is an EIA required?**

Yes

The strategy is assessed as HIGH Relevance, therefore a full EIA will be done by January 2012.

**Author of Screening for Relevance**

Name: Dave Milton	Job title and directorate: Spatial Planning Manager, Economy & Regeneration	Date: June 2012	Signature: 
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## Stage 2: Full Assessment

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### Step 1– scoping the equality impact assessment (EIA)

<b>Name of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice</b>
Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (February 2012)
<b>What are the main aims, purpose and outcomes of strategy / policy / procedure / practice and how does it fit in with the wider aims of the organisation?</b>
<p>To provide a spatial planning strategy that will guide development decisions for the next 20 years in Wiltshire. The underpinning idea of the strategy is to strengthen communities, wherever possible, by maintaining and increasing the supply of jobs to ensure that Wiltshire remains strong and prosperous. The underlying principles of the strategy seek to manage future development to ensure that communities have an appropriate balance of jobs, services and facilities and homes. To ensure that the growth required to meet local needs is managed so that it is in the most sustainable locations, protects both the natural and built environment and tackles local social problems such as areas of social exclusion and deprivation.</p> <p>The strategy has been closely aligned to the priorities of the organisation, particularly in seeking to deliver resilient communities; to plan for economic recovery; reducing disadvantage and inequalities; to ensure that affordable housing is provided as a priority; and tackling the causes and effects of climate change. It has been endorsed by Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.</p>
<b>List the main activities relating to the strategy / policy / procedure / practice and identify who is likely to benefit from it</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The allocation of 37,000 new homes including 40% affordable housing - benefit, low income persons, persons on waiting lists, first-time buyers, all others seeking a home in the area.</li><li>• Allocation of some 27,500 new job opportunities. All those seeking to work in the area. Those who wish to live and work locally and reduce the commute. Economically active incomers.</li><li>• Major regeneration projects for Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury, including those set out in the respective visions, which will benefit the local communities by delivering self-contained settlements.</li><li>• Delivery of new growth based on a defined settlement hierarchy which is focussed on delivering growth in service centres which have a range of services, thereby reinforcing their viability and helping to provide convenient access for their hinterland.</li><li>• The strategy provides the opportunity to shape the development market and deliver planning gain for communities and recreational facilities for the benefit of the local communities. Opportunities which would be lost if the growth was left to the free market to decide.</li><li>• Protection and enhancement of the built heritage for the enjoyment of all and to boost the tourism contribution to the local economy to the benefit of local business.</li></ul>
<b>What do you already know about the relevance of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice? What are the main issues you need to consider?</b>
<p>The strategy will deliver positive outcomes which will provide new opportunities for housing, employment, leisure and services access, that will be of benefit to all. Where necessary positive actions have been included to help specific groups, such as helping to tackle social exclusion and ensuring new housing meets the needs of all.</p> <p>The process has been designed to ensure that participation of local communities and those with a stake in the area have a meaningful opportunity to help shape the strategy. As required by national guidance (see PPS 12 para 4.37), public participation to help shape the evidence included the following:</p>

- During the “Wiltshire 2026” consultation exercise (2009), the consultation included 4,000 direct consultees, including community groups, 17 exhibitions across Wiltshire and 15 workshops.
- Meeting with town and parish councils and providing documents to elected Wiltshire councillors.
- Presenting to the various Area Boards across Wiltshire. To raise awareness of the events, posters were distributed in the local area and e-mails sent to everyone registered on the community area networks developed over the past two years by local community area managers. Town and Parish Councils were also informed and asked to extend the invitation as widely as possible.
- For the Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation Document (June to August 2011), the following methods of consultation were used: Awareness raising (press and media, website, written material, direct mail); Existing networks (area boards, libraries, parish and town councils Wiltshire Assembly); and direct involvement (drop-in events, questionnaire, consultation software, topic specific discussions).

The development of the Strategy has also drawn on 'Diversity and Equality in Planning - A Good Practice Guide' published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, January 2005 (HMSO).

The process has comprised an evidence based approach to identifying challenges and barriers facing the communities of Wiltshire and identifying the actions necessary to overcome them.

**What data, research and other evidence or information is available which will be relevant to this EIA?**

All parts of the Strategy are based on the collation and analysis of evidence. This means using sound research and analysis to identify the challenges faced by the area and not basing the Strategy on supposition or anecdotal evidence. It also means ensuring that the desired outcomes to address the challenges can realistically be delivered and are not based on wishful thinking. This evidence has been gathered from a wide variety of sources, including commissioned surveys. This Strategy is based on analysis of separate pieces of evidence, including international, national and local studies and reports.

Throughout the document, there are explicit references to the particular parts of the evidence base, which justify the choices made and also explain why alternative options were not pursued. A series of Topic Papers and addenda have been produced, which collate the evidence in a comprehensive manner. Topic Papers have been updated, or new Papers introduced where necessary as new evidence became available. Appendix B sets out a schedule of Topic Papers all of which are available on the Council's website.

All conclusions reached in the document are founded on analysis of the evidence, which is available for scrutiny. Wherever relevant this document includes footnotes, which refer to the pertinent sources of the information. All of the evidence can be found by following the simple link from the Wiltshire Council website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) presents a Sustainability Framework that consists of objectives, indicators and targets to assist in monitoring and assessing the likely impact that the Strategy will have on sustainability within Wiltshire. The objectives have been selected to reflect the circumstances of the area and the function of the planning system. The objectives are a combination of sustainable development objectives stated in central government guidance, specifically Planning Policy Statement 1 – Creating Sustainable Communities, and the Council’s priorities identified in the Community Strategy. All aspects of the process have been subjected to Sustainability proposal which includes objectives related to impacts on people and social circumstances.

**What further data or information do you need to carry out the assessment?**

Nil

## Step 2 – Involvement, Consultation and Partnerships

<b>Equality target group</b>	<b>Briefly describe what you did, with whom, when and where. Please provide a brief summary of the responses gained and links to relevant documents, as well as any actions.</b> This information is set out in detail in the Consultation Methodology and Output Report August 2012.
<b>Age</b>	Age Concern Wiltshire Help the Aged Youth Action Wiltshire Wiltshire Assembly of Youth Youth Development Service Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Youth Council
<b>Disability</b>	Disability Matters (Salisbury) South Wilts Deaf Children's Society Corsham Disabled Club Transport for the Disabled Swindon Access Group and Swindon Coalition of disabled people Trowbridge and District Hard of Hearing British Association of the Hard of Hearing Mencap South Wilts
<b>Gender / Gender reassignment</b>	Gay Men's health Wiltshire and Swindon Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes
<b>Race</b>	Swindon Asian Women's Association Indian Workers Association The Romany Gypsy Council Polish Community Association Swindon Irish Association
<b>Religion or belief</b>	New Testament Church of God North Wilts Rural Churches Group Jehovah's Witnesses Open Hands Christian Fellowship English Churches Housing Group
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Gay Men's Health Wiltshire and Swindon
<b>Human rights</b>	Council solicitors checked each stage of development.
<b>Other</b>	
<b>If consultation and involvement of specific groups did not take place, please state why</b>	
N/A	

<b>What do previous consultations show about the potential take-up of any resulting activities or services?</b>
Strong support for the delivery of new affordable housing and a strong economy to provide opportunities for all. Full synopsis of the consultation results can be found in the two 'Consultation Methodology and Output Reports' which form part of the evidence base to the Strategy.

**How are external partners involved, or how do you intend to involve external partners, in delivering the aims of this strategy (if applicable)**

As per Government policy the strategy has been produced in partnership with external partners and puts in place working arrangements to ensure that this continues through to implementation. Measures include:

**(a) Partnership working**

Working with key partners such as developers, infrastructure and service providers to ensure that the Strategy can be delivered in a timely coherent manner.

**(b) Infrastructure Delivery Planning**

Agreeing with essential infrastructure providers the measures needed to ensure that the Strategy can be successfully implemented, identifying when they are needed, who will implement them, and how they will be funded. This information is detailed in the Integrated Delivery Plan, which forms part of the evidence base to the Strategy. This group, comprising statutory consultees and other key stakeholders has overseen the production of this Strategy and will continue to meet to oversee its progress and implementation.

**(c) Development Management**

A multi-disciplinary and multi-agency 'development team' approach is already in place and has involved working with landowners and their agents to facilitate the delivery of the deliverable strategic sites.

**(d) Community and stakeholder engagement**

The local community, especially through the Parish Councils and Area Boards, has been involved in discussions over implementation of key parts of this Strategy, including inputting into place shaping and community gain on strategic sites. This will continue and will be a key part of managing the delivery. The Core Strategy give communities a solid framework within which appropriate community-led planning documents, including Neighbourhood Plans, can be brought forward and communities themselves can decide how best to plan locally.

**(e) Corporate governance**

An LDF Management Board has set up a mandate for Corporate working on a thematic basis, which entails cross-cutting corporate teams on a topic basis.

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**Step 3 – data collection and evidence**

**What evidence or information do you already have about how this policy might affect equality, and what does this tell you?**

Corporate and external resources used to scope effective engagement of all sectors of society, including using 'Hard to Reach' groups. All consultative material, including questionnaires were available in translated format on request, including Braille and audio for the hearing and sight impaired.

A rigorous analysis of extant evidence has been conducted including assessing international, national and local initiatives and guidance. The synthesis of this evidence in relation to Wiltshire has been collated into a series of Topic Papers which form the foundation of the Core Strategy. It is an evidence led process. Topic Paper 14, 'Building Resilient Communities' is a key document that analyses evidence related to social exclusion within Wiltshire.

The evidence highlights the need to ensure that consultation is carefully conducted so that the voice expressing the needs of minority groups are heard, and that the planning process not just 'hijacked' by the usual suspects. Leading from this it is important that the process of producing the spatial strategy is not seen a straightforward referendum and that the needs of all, especially regarding affordable homes and employment opportunities are carefully considered.

It is especially important to balance the views off many, who feel that Wiltshire should not be subject to new strategic house and employment growth, with those, least well off in society who cannot afford a decent home of their own and lack employment opportunities.

**What does available data tell you about the potential take-up of any resulting activities or services?**

The data indicates that previous growth hasn't always been delivered in a proportionate manner whereby housing is delivered in settlements where there are insufficient employment opportunities leading to out-commuting. Whilst there was the understanding of the need for new homes, there was little appetite for more homes without the imbalance in local jobs and infrastructure required to support growth being addressed. The strategy therefore seeks to redress this imbalance and support a more sustainable pattern of development within Wiltshire. This will have a significant positive impact on society.

The data clearly indicates that there is an acute shortage of affordable homes in Wiltshire, which is having a negative impact on some of those most disadvantaged and marginalised in society. The Strategy sets as its core a right for everyone to have a decent affordable home and hence proposes a step-change in the delivery of new affordable homes per year up to 2026. The take up of this supply will have a significant positive impact on society.

The evidence indicates that there are pockets of social exclusion in the rural areas, where declining service provision impacts on those who rely on local facilities. The strategy aims to tackle this through the implementation of a robust settlement strategy which is based on ensuring that viable service provision is delivered as closely as possible to customers. This is based on identifying and planning for the future resilience of local service centres in the rural areas, through a combination of managed growth proportionate to their size and development management policies which afford more protection for local services.

**What additional research or data is required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice? Have you considered commissioning new data or research?**

The strategy incorporates an Integrated Delivery Plan which will be used to monitor the effectiveness of its outcomes. This plan is based around a series of national and local performance indicators and defined targets, which will be analysed through the Annual Monitoring Report and other vehicles. This comprehensive plan will deliver a detailed understanding of the progress of the strategy and allow adjustments to be made where necessary.

No additional research is required at this time.

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**Step 4 – Assessing impact and strengthening the strategy / policy / procedure / practice**

**How does / will the strategy / policy / procedure / practice and resulting activities affect different communities and groups?**

**Positive Impacts**

**Age:**

Policies should lead to the creation of sustainable communities where each person in the district has access to services. Policies will be adopted which improve quality of life for all. They will deliver all new housing to Lifetime Home standards and safeguard local service provision.

**Social progress**

Successful policies will attract inward investment, create jobs and ensure social infrastructure improvements through planning gain. This will be targeted to where the evidence indicates need is most keenly felt. The Strategy sets as its core a right for everyone to have a decent affordable home and hence proposes a step-change in the delivery of new affordable homes up to 2026. The take up of this supply will have a significant positive impact on society.

**Tackling Rural Isolation and deprivation**

A successful LDF will encourage controlled growth to deliver new employment opportunities, including farm diversification, telecottages, barn conversions, redevelopment of Brownfield sites. Social provision through planning gain, spatial distribution of new development, ensuring access to services and affordable housing will be key.

**Gender**

The strategy will ensure provision of public transport which is disproportionately used by women. Ensure consideration of childcare facilities in new developments. Ensure access to medical and crime reporting facilities.

**Gypsy's and travellers**

The strategy takes full account of the needs of this group and plans to provide adequate pitches in Wiltshire

**Young People**

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.

**People with disabilities**

New development will meet lifetime home and relevant access standards so that they do not discriminate against the mobility impaired.

**Faith**

Faith groups have been targeted through the consultation process and positive partnership working commenced such as implementation of the Cathedral Master Plan, and taking account of the needs of druid groups in the Stonehenge Visitor centre project.

**Challenges and future learning**

Major development will be located at the major settlements, leading to pressure on existing services in smaller rural settlements. This could have an impact on access to services. We must ensure that the elderly have good access to vital services, which is a challenge in such a large rural county.

Age, ethnicity and migratory patterns may be a factor when encouraging engagement in the LDF process, particularly the heavy use of new technologies such as the internet. May leave a proportionately higher number of certain groups, not used to computer technology, disenfranchised. The use of a range of consultation techniques, based on a sound Statement of Community Involvement is important.

If growth is centered on large settlements as suggested in the RSS then addressing social deprivation in rural areas through planning gain becomes difficult. We must ensure that balanced growth and social inclusion offers opportunities across the whole district.

Women are most likely to be subject of violent crime in rural areas and need access to vital support services. Equally women are more likely to need childcare facilities to benefit from employment opportunities and use public transport much more than men.

**What measures does, or could, the strategy / policy / procedure / practice include to help promote equality of opportunity?**

The strategy will have a significant positive impact on the large majority of the communities. It will deliver the following outcomes which will make a significant positive impact upon the equality of opportunity:

- Ensure that there is access for all to a decent affordable home
- Greatly increase local employment opportunities
- Protect and enhance the best of the built heritage and natural environments
- Ensure that buildings provide access for all
- Ensure communities are viable, robust and resilient and retain important local services
- Provide meaningful transport choices for those who are marginalised due to not having a private motor car.
- Will deliver improved sport and recreational facilities for all
- Plan for new pitches for gypsies and travellers.

**What measures does, or could, the strategy / policy / procedure / practice include to address existing patterns of discrimination, harassment or disproportionately?**

The strategy attempts to tackle existing inequalities through:

- Delivering a step-change in affordable housing delivery
- Designing consultation exercises to target hard to reach groups.
- Ensuring new homes are designed to be suitable for all
- Meeting 'safe by design' guidance in new development to reduce fear of crime and especially make females and minority groups feel safe within their communities
- Provide new leisure opportunities for younger people.
- Providing facilities for gypsies and travellers

**What impact will the strategy / policy / procedure / practice have on promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?**

While, as detailed above actions have been taken to engage and address the causes of inequalities, the Wiltshire Core Strategy has been developed to deliver a vibrant, pluralistic society that has opportunities for homes, jobs and leisure for all irrespective of background. The overall goals are best encapsulated in the Spatial Vision which is as follows:

*By 2026 Wiltshire will have stronger, more resilient communities based on a sustainable pattern of development, focused principally on Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury. Market towns and service centres will have become more self-contained and supported by the necessary infrastructure, with a consequent reduction in the need to travel. In all settlements there will be an improvement in accessibility to local services, a greater feeling of security and the enhancement of a sense of community and place. This pattern of development, with a more sustainable approach towards transport and the generation and use of power and heat, will have contributed towards tackling climate change.*

*Employment, housing and other development will have been provided in sustainable locations in response to local needs as well as the changing climate and incorporating exceptional standards of design. Wiltshire's important natural and built environment will have been safeguarded and, where necessary, extended and enhanced to provide appropriate green infrastructure, while advantage will have been taken of the County's heritage to promote cultural and lifestyle improvements as well as tourism for economic benefit.*

*Partnership working with communities will have helped plan effectively for local areas and*

*allow communities to receive the benefit of managed growth, where appropriate.*

**If the strategy / policy / procedure / practice is likely to have a negative effect ('adverse impact'), what are the reasons for this?**

The process does involve allocating new development sites, especially around Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury, and there will be people who feel they are disadvantaged by the proximity of new building to their own homes. The strategy has been devised to where possible address such concerns, and represents a proportionate response to the need to deliver some 37,000 homes in the area while protecting the quality of life of existing residents. The concerns have been raised by individuals and groups during the consultation process.

Major development will be located in the major settlements, leading to pressure on existing services in smaller rural settlements. This could have an impact on access to services. We must ensure that the elderly have good access to vital services, which is a challenge in such a large rural district. The implementation of a Sustainable Settlement Strategy based on the principles of sustainability have been included to counter this potential indirect discrimination.

Age, ethnicity and migratory patterns may be a factor when encouraging engagement in the LDF process, particularly the heavy use of new technologies such as the internet. May leave a proportionately higher number of certain groups, not used to computer technology, disenfranchised. The use of a range of consultation techniques, based on a sound Statement of Community Involvement has been implemented to treat this issue.

If growth is centered on large settlements then addressing social deprivation in rural areas through planning gain becomes difficult. The strategy treats this risk of indirect discrimination through ensuring that balanced growth and social inclusion offers opportunities across the whole district.

**What practical changes will help reduce any adverse impact on particular groups?**

Although the Core Strategy is sound and has taken significant steps to ensure it addresses the challenges of planning for a pluralistic society, there are key areas of learning and best practice that could be built upon to help improve practice in the future. These include:

- Staff training including up to date legal briefing on case law related to the Race Relations Act, Sex Discrimination Act, Disability Discrimination Act, Human Rights Act and other employment legislation.
- Ensure an in depth understanding of the diversity of the community and discuss with experts how best to engage hard to reach groups.
- Target easy to understand and participate 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, cost 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.
- Promoting the developers to set up community engagement to help shape the new developments in a manner most acceptable to existing residents.

**What evidence is there that actions to address any negative effects on one area of equality may affect other areas of equality or human rights?**

None. The strategy has been developed to treat areas of disadvantage without having consequential negative impacts on others.

**What will be done to improve access to, and take-up of, services or understanding of the policy / strategy / function or procedure?**

Achieve Corporate awareness of the central importance of the Core Strategy to service delivery through sound corporate governance arrangements including the LDF Management Board, which has set up a mandate for corporate working on a thematic basis, which entails cross-cutting Corporate teams on a topic basis.

Review and tailor staff skills to carrying out effective community engagement

Implementing ongoing partnerships with communities, landowners and developers to deliver outcomes which make a positive contribution to addressing causes of inequality. Implementation of a joined -up multi-disciplinary development team approach.

Establishing a wider network of groups to ensure there is representation and input into key policy development and delivery of outcomes.

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**Step 5 – Procurement and Commissioning**

**Consideration of external contractor obligations and partnership working**

Parts of the evidence base have been produced through new empirical research carried out on behalf of Wiltshire Council through procurement of external consultants. Each procurement process has been carefully carried out in liaison with the Corporate Procurement Team and legal services to ensure that the tendering specifications, process for awarding contracts, the contract and management has taken full account of equality obligations and equality more broadly.

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**Step 6 – making a decision**

**Summarise your findings and give an overview of whether the strategy / policy / procedure /**

**practice will meet the Council’s responsibilities in relation to equality and human rights**

The Core Strategy is a statutory requirement on authorities and will help meet the statutory duties related to equalities and diversity in the following manner:

- Promotes equality of opportunity by ensuring that there is an adequate supply of housing to meet all ranges of affordability. Ensures that new development is planned in or close to service centres thereby promoting access to services. Plans for the expansion of employment opportunities to provide local opportunities for all
- Includes policies requiring new buildings to take account of the needs of all in society including the mobility impaired and elderly.
- The strategy has been developed by reaching out consultatively to all sectors of society to request their views. This includes sending a direct consultation letter to every business and home in Wiltshire and targeting hard to reach groups through direct approach.
- The statutory process has been subject to quality control and accreditation to check, amongst other matters, compliance with Human Rights laws.

The Core Strategy process has used an evidence based approach to identify areas where there are risks of promoting inequalities if mitigatory actions are not taken. The necessary steps to ensure that issues of social exclusion are successfully treated have been taken. These include promotion of gypsy sites, protecting rural services and promoting rural diversification.

**What practical actions do you recommend to reduce, justify or remove any adverse / negative impact?**

The Integrated Delivery Plan Core Strategy sets out how its delivery will be managed. The delivery of the Strategy will deliver the significant benefits for all and mitigate those slight areas of indirect discrimination. Its implementation will be wholly positive.

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**Step 7 – monitoring, evaluating and reviewing**

**How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes?**

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 both the development of the Strategy, but will also guide its delivery through the Integrated Delivery Plan. The outcomes of the strategy will be reviewed and monitored through a range of means, led by the Annual Monitoring Report and the assessment in the toolbox will be reviewed and updated when required.

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

**How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the strategy / policy / procedure / practice?**

As above - as is a statutory obligation the Strategy will be predominantly monitored through the Annual

Monitoring Report., which will set out the performance against targets set out in the Strategies Integrated Delivery Plan. This EIA will be regularly reviewed, including at least once within the first year of adoption of the Core Strategy.

**Give details of how the results of the impact assessment will be published**

This EIA forms an important background document to the Wiltshire Core Strategy. It will be published and be available through the statutory pre-submission consultation. It will be available on the Council website, in libraries and on request.

## Step 8 – action plan

	Actions	Target date	Responsible post holder and Directorate	Monitoring post holder and Directorate
Involvement, Consultation and Partnerships	The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (adopted February 2010) explains that the Council will actively monitor the success of community involvement techniques. This monitoring review will occur within the Council's AMR after a major consultation exercise, when the extent to which the SCI is being successfully implemented will be assessed.	December, annually, if appropriate i.e. following a major consultation exercise	Mathew Pearson Planning Officer Economy & Enterprise	Georgina Clampitt-dix Head of Spatial Planning Economy & Enterprise
Data collection and evidence	Review LDF database and update regularly to ensure it is relevant and contemporary	Throughout the life of the Strategy until 2026	Dave Milton, Team Leader Spatial Planning (South Office) Economy & Enterprise	Georgina Clampitt-dix Head of Spatial Planning Economy & Enterprise
Assessment and analysis	Using Annual Monitoring Report as key tool, assess delivery of desired outcomes of the Strategy.	December, annually	Neil Tiley Team Leader Regional and Strategic Planning Economy and Enterprise	Georgina Clampitt-dix Head of Spatial Planning Economy & Enterprise
Procurement and Commissioning	Continue to ensure that all consultancy work meets corporate procurement standards	Throughout the life of the Strategy until 2026	Dave Milton, Team Leader Spatial Planning (South Office) Economy & Enterprise	Georgina Clampitt-dix Head of Spatial Planning Economy & Enterprise
Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing	Based on the Integrated Delivery Plan and using Annual Monitoring Report as key tool, assess delivery of desired outcomes of the Strategy. If unexpected outcomes are being produced which	Throughout the life of the Strategy until 2026	Dave Milton, Team Leader Spatial Planning (South Office) Economy & Enterprise	Georgina Clampitt-dix Head of Spatial Planning Economy & Enterprise

	introduce unforeseen discrimination, assess and implement options for mitigation
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**Sign-off**

**The final stage of the EIA is to formally sign off the document as being a complete, rigorous and robust assessment**

The strategy / policy / procedure / practice has been fully assessed in relation to its potential effects on equality and all relevant concerns have been addressed.

**Author of strategy / policy / procedure / practice and EIA**

Author; Dave Milton BA (Hons) MA MRTPI Cert Mgt (Open).

Dave Milton	Spatial Planning Manager, Economy & Regeneration	Date: June 2012	Signature: 
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