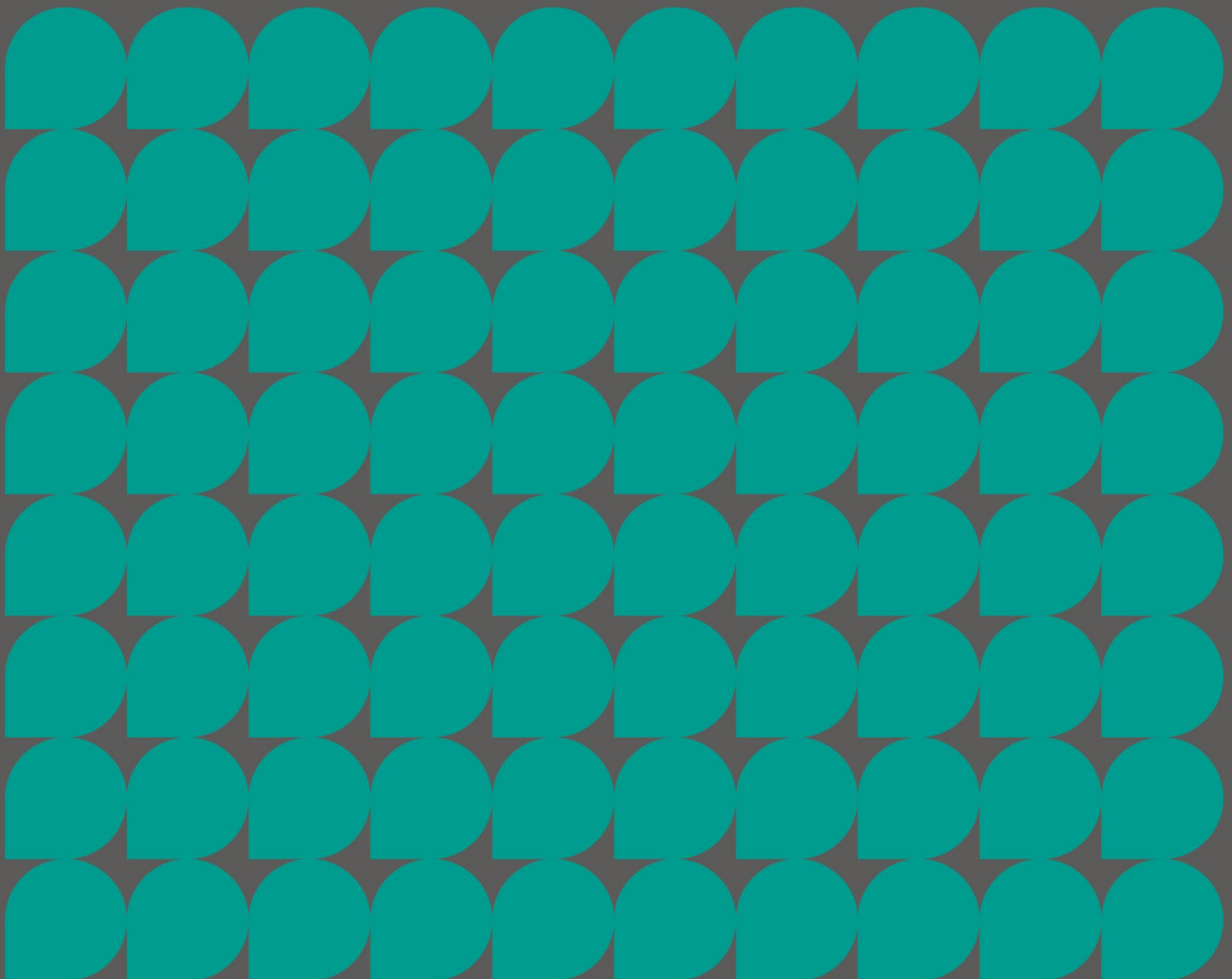


Draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint Supplementary Planning Document

Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Statement

November 2024



1. Introduction

1.1. This is the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening Statement for the Draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which has been prepared jointly by the nine Places for Everyone (PfE) authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan). This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010.

2. Requirements of the Equalities Act 2010

- 2.1. The Equality Act 2010 came into effect in October 2010 with the aim of harmonising all current discrimination law and strengthening the laws that prevent discrimination. It applies to the provision of services and public functions and includes the development of local authority policies and plans.
- 2.2. The Act maintains the protection provided by previous legislation and therefore prevents discrimination on the basis of nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.
- 2.3. Inequality can exist in a number of forms and with regards to spatial planning, this can include inadequate provision of, and access to services (e.g. health, food stores, and education facilities), good quality housing, employment opportunities, a healthy living environment and transport infrastructure for all members of society.
- 2.4. The Equality Act 2010 does not outline how public authorities should assess the effects on equality of new policies and programmes, but doing so is an important part of complying with the general duty.
- 2.5. An EqIA seeks to improve the work of local authorities and ensures that the policies and plans it develops do not discriminate in the manner in which they provide services and employment. EqIA also aims to ensure that local authorities do all they can to advance equality of opportunity between the

people who do, and the people who do not share a relevant protected characteristic.

3. Draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

3.1. Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines SPDs as documents which add further detail to the policies in the Development Plan. As SPDs do not have the same status as policies contained within the Development Plan, they are not subject to independent examination.

3.2. The Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan was adopted by, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan (the nine PfE Plan authorities) and took effect on 21 March 2024. The SPD sets out how the nine PfE Plan authorities will seek to secure contributions from developers to mitigate the impacts of development proposals on Holcroft Moss, which emerged through the PfE Plan making process (and also Warrington's Local Plan) and through detailed discussions with Natural England.

3.3. The aims of the Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations SPD are to:

- Ensure that advice is consistent with the latest Government regulations and associated Planning Practice Guidance;
- Ensure that new development is consistent with the provisions of the recently adopted PfE Plan;
- Provide a robust basis upon which the nine PfE Plan authorities can secure contributions from developers to ensure that the impacts of schemes on Holcroft Moss are appropriately mitigated; and
- Provide clear advice to developers as to what is expected in applications to ensure an efficient process for consultation and determination.

3.4. The PfE Plan is the “parent DPD”, which has already been subject to an EqlA, prior to being adopted and coming into effect on 21 March 2024.

- 3.5. The Draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations SPD will supplement PfE Plan Policy: Policy JP-C8: Transport Requirements of New Development.
- 3.6. The SPD will provide guidance on the application of S106 agreements that form the basis of developer contributions in respect of matters relating to the mitigation of impact from development on Holcroft Moss. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for the whole of the PfE Plan area upon adoption.
- 3.7. The information and guidance in the SPD will be of particular use to those looking to submit planning applications to one or more of the PfE Plan authorities. It will provide practical advice to help applicants comply with PfE Plan policy requirements. It also sets out the procedure for determining planning applications, what information will be required and when it will be required.

4. Screening Assessment

- 4.1. The Draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations SPD is not setting new policy; it will supplement an existing policy (JP-C8) in the PfE Plan (which came into effect on 21 March 2024). JP-C8 has already been subject to a full EqIA through the PfE Plan making process as part of the Integrated Assessment for the PfE. The EqIA is available on the [GMCA website](#) and found that PfE Policy JP-C8¹ would not have a negative impact on any of the nine characteristics protected under the Equalities Act 2010: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

As the SPD will only provide further guidance on the implementation of PfE Policy JP-C8 and will not introduce new policy or requirements over and above those that are already set out in the policy, then it is concluded that no further assessment of the Draft SPD is required under the Equalities Act 2010 beyond what has already been carried out in the EqIA for Policy JP-C8.

¹ Please note, at the time the PfE EqIA was carried out, the relevant policy number was JP-C7. However, following the inspectors' recommendation to introduce a new policy at JP-C4, Policy JP-C7 was consequentially renumbered as JP-C8.