

Appendix 1: Equalities Profile for South Norfolk District

Population by gender

This dataset shows the resident population by gender as in 2011

Persons	count	%
All usual residents	124,012	100.0
Males	60,515	48.8
Females	63,497	51.2
Lives in a household	122,219	98.6
Lives in a communal establishment	1,793	1.4

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Population projections for all persons by year

The projections below take population estimates as their starting point.

	South Norfolk	Norfolk	England
2018	135,900	902,800	55,997,700
2019	137,400	908,300	56,357,500
2020	138,900	913,600	56,704,700
2021	140,400	918,800	57,030,500
2026	147,200	944,100	58,505,600
2031	152,400	966,400	59,789,800
2036	156,800	985,200	60,905,500
2041	160,600	1,002,300	61,952,100

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from NorfolkInsight 26 April 2021]

Age structure

This dataset shows the resident population by broad age groups as in 2011

Persons	count	%
All usual residents	124,012	100.0
Age 0 to 4	6,816	5.5
Age 5 to 7	3,865	3.1
Age 8 to 9	2,512	2.0
Age 10 to 14	7,557	6.1
Age 15	1,545	1.2
Age 16 to 17	3,202	2.6
Age 18 to 19	2,518	2.0
Age 20 to 24	5,357	4.3
Age 25 to 29	5,740	4.6
Age 30 to 44	22,839	18.4
Age 45 to 59	25,965	20.9
Age 60 to 64	9,573	7.7
Age 65 to 74	14,143	11.4
Age 75 to 84	8,888	7.2
Age 85 to 89	2,381	1.9
Age 90 and over	1,111	0.9

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Sexual orientation and gender reassignment

Data on sexual orientation and gender reassignment is not available at a District Level. In 2016, just over 1 million (2.0%) of the UK population aged 16 and over identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) (Source: Office for National Statistics).

Marital and civil partnership status

Population by marital and civil partnership status in 2011

This dataset shows the Marital and civil partnership status as in 2011

Persons	count	%
All usual residents aged 16+	101,717	100.0
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	25,795	25.4
Married	56,458	55.5
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	257	0.3
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2,223	2.2
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	9,528	9.4
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	7,456	7.3

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Ethnic group

Population by ethnic group in 2011. This dataset shows the percentage of population by ethnic groups from the 2011

Persons	count	%
All usual residents	124,012	100.0
White	120,981	97.6
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	117,998	95.2
Irish	455	0.4
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	183	0.1
Other White	2,345	1.9
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	1,214	1.0
White and Black Caribbean	313	0.3
White and Black African	179	0.1
White and Asian	422	0.3
Other Mixed	300	0.2
Asian/Asian British	1,270	1.0
Indian	433	0.3
Pakistani	64	0.1
Bangladeshi	60	0.0
Chinese	325	0.3
Other Asian	388	0.3
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	378	0.3
African	259	0.2
Caribbean	68	0.1
Other Black	51	0.0
Other ethnic group	169	0.1
Arab	70	0.1
Any other ethnic group	99	0.1

2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Religion

Population by religion in 2011

This dataset shows the percentage of the population by religion from 2011 Census.

Persons	count	%
All usual residents	124,012	100.0
Has religion	78,904	63.6
Christian	77,234	62.3
Buddhist	364	0.3
Hindu	235	0.2
Jewish	126	0.1
Muslim	403	0.3
Sikh	49	0.0
Other religion	493	0.4
No religion	35,601	28.7
Religion not stated	9,507	7.7

Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Health and provision of unpaid Care

This dataset shows the percentage of people (2011) that have a limiting long-term illness, number of people who provide unpaid care for others and the number of hours provided and persons health rating.

Persons	count	%
All usual residents	124,012	100.0
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	9,238	7.4
Day-to-day activities limited a little	13,002	10.5
Day-to-day activities not limited	101,772	82.1
Day-to-day activities limited a lot: Age 16 to 64	3,324	2.7
Day-to-day activities limited a little: Age 16 to 64	5,404	4.4
Day-to-day activities not limited: Age 16 to 64	66,466	53.6
Very good health	57,480	46.4
Good health	44,400	35.8
Fair health	16,575	13.4
Bad health	4,297	3.5
Very bad health	1,260	1.0
Provides no unpaid care	110,192	88.9
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	9,604	7.7
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	1,482	1.2
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	2,734	2.2

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Earnings by place of residence

Gross Weekly Pay	South Norfolk (Pounds)	East (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Full-Time Workers	586.5	604.8	587.1
Male Full-Time Workers	624.0	646.4	622.9
Female Full-Time Workers	532.7	550.5	544.3
Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime	South Norfolk (Pounds)	East (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Full-Time Workers	15.02	15.38	15.18

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan
Equalities Impact Assessment, May 2021 – Appendix 1

Gross Weekly Pay	South Norfolk (Pounds)	East (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Male Full-Time Workers	15.44	16.01	15.64
Female Full-Time Workers	13.96	14.65	14.42

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis 2011 Census ONS
Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 26 April 2021]

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

Out-Of-Work Benefits

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Claimant count by sex - not seasonally adjusted (March 2021)

Population	South Norfolk (Numbers)	South Norfolk (%)	East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People	3,030	3.7	5.6	6.5
Males	1,680	4.2	6.5	7.7
Females	1,350	3.2	4.7	5.

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 28 April 2021]

Household deprivation

South Norfolk	Not deprived on any dimension	Deprived on 1 dimension	Deprived on 2 dimensions	Deprived on 3 dimensions	Deprived on all 4 dimensions
Urban	3,075	4,009	2,626	595	52
Rural	11,754	13,947	8,615	1,786	141
Less Sparse	11,754	13,947	8,615	1,786	141
Town	4,379	5,640	3,685	679	52
Village	5,281	6,032	3,749	832	61
Dispersed	2,094	2,275	1,181	275	28

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 28 April 2021]

East of England	Not deprived on any dimension	Deprived on 1 or more dimensions
Urban	503,710	1,045,520
Rural	234,574	448,212
Less Sparse	225,574	419,404
Town	104,454	201,479
Village	91,914	166,962
Dispersed	29,439	50,963

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 28 April 2021]

Rurality

Location	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population
Urban	11,475	12,203	23,678
Rural	42,378	44,654	87,032
Less Sparse	42,378	44,654	87,032
Town	15,716	17,122	32,838
Village	19,201	19,943	39,144
Dispersed	7,461	7,589	15,050
Total	53,853	56,857	110,710
Percentage Rural	78.7	78.5	78.6

Source 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis 28 April 2021]

Equality Impact Assessment (EqulA)

Assessing the impact of the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (The Village Clusters Plan) upon different sections of the community.

Introduction

This EqulA reviews the first stage of The Village Clusters Plan preparation (the Regulation 18 Notification) in order to assess any potential impact on equalities of the Objectives for the Village Clusters Plan and the Core Policies being proposed to be included in the plan and from the methods of consultation.

The South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (The Village Clusters Plan) aims to deliver sustainable growth within the more rural parts of South Norfolk. The Village Clusters Plan is being developed alongside the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) and in accordance with Government's national planning policies and guidance (the GNLP has prepared their own EqulA). The main aim of the Plan is to allocate a series of smaller sites, currently in the range of 12 to 50 homes, across the 48 Village Clusters in South Norfolk, to accommodate at least 1,200 new homes in total. The Plan also defines the Settlement Limits for the villages within these clusters, making provision for further, smaller sites of up to 11 dwellings, although typically much smaller.

This consultation draft sets out the proposed Objectives for the Village Clusters Plan as well as a set of Core Policies that would apply to all the Preferred allocation sites. It is proposed that those Core Policies would cover the issues of standard requirements to deliver sustainable development, housing mix on the Preferred sites, and design standards.

The aim of a Regulation 18 Notification is to consult the specific and general consultation bodies as listed in the Local Planning regulations (2012) and other interested parties on the proposed subjects of the local plan and to provide opportunity for those bodies to comment on the themes and sites proposed. This should ensure that the emerging Local Plan covers all subjects considered to be necessary to provide for the appropriate development in the district.

In accordance with the Local Planning Regulations (2012), the Council will notify anyone who they considered had an interest, and the specific and general consultees as listed in the Regulations, including:

- people who live in, work in and visit South Norfolk;
- individuals, organisations, landowners and development companies needing to make planning applications to the Council, and the professional planning agents and architects who represent them;
- public sector organisations (e.g. Norfolk Constabulary, Norfolk County Council);

- housing associations, registered social landlords and other organisations in the voluntary sector;
- general consultees (e.g. local interest groups such as those representing different racial, ethnic or national groups, different religious groups, disabled persons, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and older or younger people);
- statutory bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England) and;
- neighbouring local authorities.

Whilst this stage of the process only looks at the broad themes and objectives proposed to be included, it is important to recognise that the needs of different equalities groups are considered throughout the process. The consequences of not recognising and addressing the different needs of different groups, could result in discrimination or a failure to promote the equality of opportunity for everyone. As a result, all of the protected characteristics under the PSED are considered within this report as part of a screening exercise.

Legal Context

Local authorities are specifically required to undertake an EqlA under The Equality Act 2010. The requirement to undertake an EqlA stems from the duty placed on local authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination in carrying out its functions, and to promote equality of opportunity.

The Equality Act 2010 requires local authorities to ensure that their plans and policies do not adversely impact upon any group with 'protected characteristics', and furthermore should encourage greater equality between different groups. The following characteristics are protected characteristics under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED):

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation

In addition to the protected characteristic groups set out above, it has also been considered appropriate to include other Community Impacts (Health, Place inc. Rurality and Low Income and Poverty) groups as part of the assessment to ensure a robust assessment has taken place. Therefore, in this EqlA of The Village Cluster Plan, these additional groups will be assessed together with the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010.

Methodology

In producing the EqIA, various sources of information have been gathered in order to determine whether The Village Clusters Plan is likely to have an adverse impact on or discriminate against different groups within the community. Such sources of information include Census data, along with national and local statistics.

The report will identify any protected groups that may be impacted (either positively or negatively) by each Objective and Core Policy in turn. If an objective or policy would have no impact on a particular group, the result is recorded as 'not applicable'.

Where the screening exercise identifies that The Village Clusters Plan has an impact upon one or more group, this is explained. If any negative impact exists, the policy has been subject to further consideration. The requirement for a full Equality Impact Assessment is considered with the aim of avoiding negative impact upon the identified group or groups, and to take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

The Equalities Profile of South Norfolk

An 'Equalities Profile' for South Norfolk can be found at Appendix 1, while Table 1 (below) sums up the baseline information of the different protected characteristics, which are focussed upon as part of the assessment. The characteristics are in accordance with the list set out above;

Table 1: Summary of baseline information of protected characteristics

Protected Characteristic	South Norfolk
Age	<p>The 2011 Census population figure for South Norfolk District is 124,012 persons in some 122,219 households.</p> <p>The Census shows that 20% of the total population are aged between 45 to 59, with an additional 18% aged 30 to 44, this potentially correlates with the spike in person ages between 0-4 and 10-14 years, as off-spring of this low middle-aged group.</p> <p>However, a total of 21.4%, which is over 1/5, of the South Norfolk area is of retirement age (based on 65+ plus years) which has potential implications for health and social care, and potentially access to services.</p>
Disability	<p>Census respondents were asked to assess whether their health was very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. South Norfolk has a high percentage of persons with very good and good health, with only 4.5% with bad or very bad health.</p>

Protected Characteristic	South Norfolk
	Another Census question asked whether residents had a long-term (12 months +) health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activities. The results, as shown in Appendix 1 show that 7.4% of South Norfolk residents have a severely limiting health condition.
Gender reassignment	There is no known data relating to gender reassignment in the South Norfolk District population
Marriage and civil partnership	The 2011 census identifies that out of all the usual residents aged 16+, 55.5% were indented as married and 25.4% were identified as being single. 7.7% of people are widowed, likely reflecting the older age profile of the district.
Pregnancy and maternity	In 2016 data for South Norfolk of the Live Birth Rate (CBR) was at 10,100 persons and the General Fertility Rate (GFR) of all live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 was 62.1%
Race	The majority (97.6%) of South Norfolk residents' class themselves as white. Within this group, 0.1% identified themselves as a Gypsy or Traveller. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Of the 2.4% identifying as other than white, there is a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds represented, as can be seen in Appendix There is no evidence to suggest a spatial variation within the District with regard to race.
Religion or belief	In the 2011 Census, 63.6% of South Norfolk residents identified themselves as having a religion, 28.7% identifying as having no religion with 7.7% having not stated. The 2011 Census shows that the majority of the South Norfolk District population see themselves as Christian (63.6%). The Census did not ask about religious activities or practices, only about respondents' identities. There is no evidence to suggest a spatial variation within the District with regard to religion or belief.
Sex	The 2011 Census identifies that within the District there are more females (51.2%; 63,497 people) compared to males (48.8%; 60,515 people). This reflects the regional and national position.
Sexual orientation	There is very limited data relating to sexual orientation in South Norfolk population. Sexual orientation data is not captured by the Census 2011. However, the 2011 Census data identifies that within the district, 0.3% of the population are in a registered same-sex civil partnership. There is no evidence to suggest a spatial variation within the district with regard to sexual orientation.

Protected Characteristic	South Norfolk
Health	Census respondents were asked to assess whether their health was very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. South Norfolk has a high percentage of persons with very good and food health, with only 4.5% with bad or very bad health.
Place inc. Rurality	<p>In South Norfolk 78.6% of people live in rural areas, compared with 31% in the Government Office Region. Within the rural areas all people live in less sparse areas.</p> <p>23,678 persons live in urban parts of South Norfolk, with 87,032 people living in rural areas (less sparse). Of that 87,032, 32,838 persons live in towns, 39,144 live in villages and 15,050 persons with dispersed areas.</p>
Low Income and Poverty	<p>The classification of household deprivation on the Census is independent of the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Four dimensions from the Census returns have been identified as giving an indication of household deprivation.</p> <p>A household is deprived in a dimension if they meet one or more of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment: Where any member of a household, who is not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick. • Education: No person in the household has at least Level 2 education (see highest level of qualification), and no person aged 16 to 18 is a full-time student. • Health and disability: Any person in the household has general health that is 'bad' or 'very bad' or has a long-term health problem. • Housing: The household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating. <p>Within South Norfolk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 193 people identify as being deprived on all 4 dimensions • 2,381 people identify as being deprived on all 3 dimensions • 11,241 people identify as being deprived on all 2 dimensions • 17,956 people identify as being deprived on all 1 dimension: and • 14,829 people identify as being not deprived on any dimension.

Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 26 April 2021]

The Equality Impact Assessment

The following table (table 3) illustrates the screening process for the three Objectives which The Village Clusters is aiming to achieve through the allocation of appropriate sites, the amendment of Settlement Limits and the Core Policies to guide development.

Any negative impact identified on a protected group will result in further consideration of the policy and depending on the outcome the policy may be subject to full Equalities Impact Assessment.

The table below identifies with a tick (✓) any protected groups which may be impacted positively, and with a cross (X), any protected groups which may be impacted negatively. Potential impacts identified are described in the next section, and any actions needed are explored in the conclusion.

Table 2: Screening the Equality Impacts of The Village Cluster Plan– Objectives, Core Policies and Settlement Limit review) - Scoring

	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion	Sex	Sexual orientation	Health	Place inc. Rurality	Low Income and Poverty
SNVC Objective 1 Meeting House needs	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓
SNVC Objective 2 Protecting village communities and support rural services and facilities	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	N/A
SNVC Objective 3 Protect the character of	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A

	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion	Sex	Sexual orientation	Health	Place inc. Rurality	Low Income and Poverty
villages and their settings												
Core Policy: Standard requirements	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Core Policy: Design	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Core Policy: Housing Mix	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Amendment of Settlement Limits	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓

Potential Impacts

This section assesses the impact of the Objectives and Core Policies contained within The Village Cluster Plan on the identified protected characteristics.

Objective Policies' Impacts

1. Meeting Housing Needs – this objective seeks to provide new housing development to meet housing needs and is considered to have a positive impact; this objective ensures that allocated sites provide an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures to allow for residents at different parts of their life cycle e.g. first-time buyers, affordable housing, upsizing/downsizing etc. This will benefit young and old people, persons with reduced mobility, low-income households, people with a physical disability or older residents. This will benefit pregnant women and those with poor health. One effect of this objective is likely to be to focus development within settlements

and therefore within walking distance of key services. This will benefit low income groups, who are less likely to have access to a private car.

2. Protecting village communities and support rural services and facilities- this objective seeks to provide opportunities for new housing development to support local services and facilities, meeting the needs of a range of occupiers with the potential to support different local services and facilities. This objective will benefit all sections of the community as it promotes development with services and facilities as well as helping to meet local housing need. The co-location of housing with services will benefit people with reduced mobility, such as those with poor health, a physical disability or older residents. One effect of this policy is likely to be to focus development within walking distance of key services. This will benefit more rural areas, less mobile and low-income groups, who are less likely to have access to a private car.
3. Protect the character of villages and their settings- this objective seeks to ensure that the scale, location and density of housing is well related to the form and character of existing villages and ensure appropriate landscaping measures are delivered as part of new development. The impact on protected characteristics is neutral.

Core Policies' Impacts

Policy SNVC1 - Standard requirements

This policy ensures that all site allocations are assessed using the same 'standard requirement' in order to avoid repetition in each of the individual site policies and to ensure consistency across the plan.

Policy SNVC2 – Design

The policy aims to ensure that development and design considers the needs of all residents and users in the design of new development. In particular, developments being accessible to all as well as being legible and adaptable and takes account of residential amenity, inclusivity and access for all, thus having a positive impact on a number of characteristic groups. In particular, the policy also is considered that it is positive in relation to the needs of some characteristic groups, for example the elderly and disabled.

Policy SNVC3 – Housing Mix

This policy reflects appropriate housing mix in all new developments and is considered to have a positive impact on certain protected characteristic groups due to the provision of a range of housing types to suit all sectors of the community. Promoting affordable housing will contribute towards a mix of housing provision to cater for all groups and will benefit income deprivation. In addition, a mix of housing could help foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Whole Plan Impacts

Having considered the above Objective and Core Policies within the plan, it is important to address the draft Village Clusters Plan holistically, to assess any adverse impact upon any group with 'protected characteristics', and establish whether the plan encourages greater equality between different groups.

Many of the Policies and Objectives within the Plan will benefit the wider community across South Norfolk and not specifically those with protected characteristics. However, some will have the potential for some direct or indirect impact on different groups.

Applying the Public Sector Equality Duty to the entire Draft Village Clusters Plan, is there any impact (positive or negative) on any particular group related to:

Age

The Village Clusters Plan appears to have a positive overall effect on younger and older persons. Young children require schools to be closely located to their homes. Also, for adults in older age groups and less mobile access to services becomes more important. These age-related issues have been considered as part of the plan where access to services and facilities have been taken into account as part of the site assessment process. It is acknowledged that not all village clusters will benefit from the same range of services, this is largely due to the rurality of South Norfolk and smaller scale of many villages. It is therefore common for residents to rely on either having a car and/or public transport to travel short distances to nearest local service centre. In addition, supporting the ongoing vitality of rural services, through the provision of housing with these cluster has some age-related benefits; schools for younger people but also other provision for different ages where local business will be supported.

The Village Cluster Plan will seek to achieve a housing mix that is in line with needs identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), which can reasonably be expected to help ensure that age-based needs are met across Plan. Population projections will require housing development to keep pace with anticipated growth in demand. Demand for certain types of accommodation may change for example housing for elderly persons as numbers are increasing and development proposals and development proposals will need to take account of this. This will benefit and promote the equality of opportunity and promote good relations in the community in respect of age. This is something that will need to be considered throughout the planning process, where the detail of specific housing mix will be identified.

Disability

The conclusions within the site assessments have been formed within the context of the village clusters, where inherently some clusters have a more limited range of services than larger villages and towns. It is also acknowledge that whilst The Village Cluster Plan has sought to ensure footpath access to those services and facilities that exist wherever possible, there are some locations where this is not possible. However, consideration has been given to the safety of the highway for walking, including the availability of places to step off the highway (where verges

may be present). Whilst it is recognised this would lead to some negative impacts in isolation, in particular for those with limited mobility. The Village Cluster Plan appears to have a positive overall effect on people with disabilities. This is because wherever possible, sites have been preferred that are within walking distance of key services (albeit that some village clusters are better serviced than others, which presents an inherent limitation to the plan).

In addition, housing design standards similarly benefit people with disabilities. There is an overarching approach to accessible design that has been set out in the emerging GNLP. The GNLP includes a range of policies that aim to improve access to services for all residents, seeks a percentage of adaptive homes, encourages use of Building for a Healthy Life, and requires a Health Impact Assessment for some schemes. Any housing that is put forward in the Village Clusters Plan would need to be in accordance with this emerging policy (subject to the outcome of the forthcoming examination on the GNLP).

Gender reassignment

There are no discernible impacts, either positive or negative, in relation to gender reassignment.

Marriage and civil partnership

There are no discernible impacts, either positive or negative, in relation to marriage and civil partnership.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Village Clusters are based around Primary School catchments, and that access to a Primary School has been a significant consideration, the Council also recognises that many other facilities are important to local communities and has also undertaken an audit of other facilities and services within the clusters, to inform the Site Assessment process. This includes considering access to healthcare provision, albeit that from a number of clusters residents will need to travel to access healthcare.

Notwithstanding the above, the plan appears to have a positive overall effect. Preferred sites prioritise locations in walking distance of key services (as noted above, wherever possible), benefitting groups who may be less mobile, including incidences where this relates to pregnancy and maternity.

Race

The Objectives and Core policies within the Village Cluster Plan are regarded as being generally positive for all and as having no differential impact on this group.

Religion or Belief

There is no provision places of worship or cultural development related to faith or race within the Village Cluster Plan. Therefore, while these elements are not included, this is considered to have a neutral impact on religion or belief.

Sex

There are no discernible impacts, either positive or negative, by sex. Fear of crime may have a disproportionate relationship to sex. In this context, it is worth highlighting that all sites policies will be informed by the overarching design quality which would emphasises 'Secured by Design'. However, it is recognised that there would be limited street lighting in certain areas due to the rurality of the clusters. Overall however, the Objectives and Core policies within the Village Cluster Plan are considered to have a neutral impact on sex.

Sexual orientation

The Objectives and Core policies within the Village Cluster Plan are regarded as being generally positive for all and as having no differential impact on this group.

Impact Analysis of Health, Place and Low Income and Poverty

Although Health, Place and Low Income and Poverty are not one of the defined protected characteristics as defined under The Equality Act 2010, it has been considered prudent to assess the impact of the Plan's objectives and policies on these additional indicators. The assessment of the impact of the policies on Health, Place and Low Income and Poverty supports that the Plan has been written in a positive way with the aim of benefiting all of those in society.

Health

The Village Cluster Plan has considered accessibility to health provision as part of the site assessment process. However, as previously noted the judgements made within the site assessments have been formed within the context of the village clusters, that inherently have a more limited range of services than larger villages and towns. Whilst this may have a minor negative impact, on balance, the increasing housing stock and in particular the stock of affordable housing is considered to be beneficial in housing terms. The delivery of housing scheme may also result in the provision of open space.

The Village Cluster Plan appears to have a positive overall effect on people with low to bad health.

Place. Inc Rurality

Over 75% of South Norfolk's population live in rural areas where meeting the needs of these people effectively is vital. Whilst communities in rural and urban areas face many similar challenges from housing to healthcare, from education to employment, rurality can increase the acuteness with which certain challenges are felt and the practical ways needed to address them. The Village Cluster Plan is considered to have a neutral impact on protected groups but could benefit those working in rural areas in accessing local housing, or existing residents who are looking to up/downsize but remain local to their area (families, job etc). This also seeks to protect local services and facilities, which are particularly important for older and younger residents who may be less able to travel to meet their day-to-day needs.

Low Income and Poverty

The Objectives and Core policies within the Village Cluster Plan are regarded as being generally positive. A focus on ensuring sites are promoting the provision of affordable housing and sites that seek to focus development within walking distance of local services will benefit those on a low income and who may be disproportionately affected by travel costs. The provision of housing in rural areas also has a role in supporting the ongoing viability and vitality of local services and facilities. However, it is also recognised inherently there will be a greater need to travel from rural locations than larger villages and towns, where access to a car/own transport may negatively impact on low income households.

Summary of Impacts

The Village Clusters Plan has the opportunity to promote the equality of opportunity and promote good relations in the community in regard to age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, gender, Health, Place and Low Income and Poverty characteristic. Where possible, development will be preferred in areas where there is good accessibility to the local services and facilities within particular villages, which will benefit those with limited mobility, including the elderly, those in poor health. In particular, the plan will have a positive impact on young parents and children due to the Primary School catchment for each cluster being a proxy for social sustainability. The Village Cluster Plan will also have a positive impact on certain characteristics though meeting identified housing needs within South Norfolk, which will also aim to provide sufficient homes in line with the projected population growth. This will also provide the opportunity to create well designed homes, which in some cases will help to promote good health. In addition, the requirement to provide affordable housing across some sites will not only benefit those of low income and poverty but also young parents/families. A mix of housing will also advance the equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not, fostering good relationships between those characteristics. Where any tensions have been identified within the Plan i.e. accepting that not all village clusters will benefit from the same range of services due to rurality of some of the clusters, the plan will aim to seek to achieve wherever possible good walking links to services and facilities. However, there will be some inherent tensions linked to the relative accessibility of a range of higher order services and goods in several locations compared to others. In these instances, there will be a balancing of factors to determine whether any perceived harm will outweigh the benefit of providing sufficient housing to meet an identified need and supporting local services that are present in rural areas.

Conclusion

This EqIA has examined whether the Village Cluster Plan has an adverse impact on or discriminated against different groups in the community. The assessment identified that the Objectives and Core Policies are likely to have either a positive impact or no differential impact on the different protected characteristics. Any issues raised in this EqIA will be taken into consideration in the development of policies and in the preparation of consultations on future stages of The Village Cluster Plan production.

This EqIA will be reviewed prior to the finalisation of the Regulations 19 Pre-Submission Publication version of the plan.