

# EQUALITY SCREENING

## Appendix C

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Public Consultations for Improvements to Guildford St, Chertsey	Azra Mukadam

**A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity?** Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

In 2022, Runnymede Council received £1 million from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to improve the borough's urban environment and strengthen the sense of community and resilience for residents and businesses. The Council has identified improvements to our town centres as a key priority area for the funding.

Following the investment in Addlestone and Egham town centres, the Council's next objective is to enhance Chertsey Town Centre, the borough's third major town. The northern side of Guildford Street was seen as the primary focus of the much-needed investment to improve the town's historical attraction and draw visitors back to the high streets. Previous studies and feasibility work has directed the focus on Guildford Street as a much-needed location that is considered by locals and reports to be the hub of the town's activities.

The Council assigned consultants, NEW masterplanning, to carry out a consultation process with Guildford Street businesses and town stakeholders. NEW masterplanning have previously worked on the refreshed Chertsey Masterplanning 2021 and much of their investigation and engagement provided a solid foundation for the next phase of work.

Approximately £500,000 has been allocated to improvements to the public realm, environmental beautification, business grants to improve the frontage of their businesses and additional streetscape, furnishing where identified opportunities arise.

Quarterly updates from the Senior Economic Development Officer, of the wider SPF funding, is reported to CMC and CLT, which identifies the breadth of projects that are supported by the overall £1million.

Chertsey is a priority area for the wider economic development strategy to level up Runnymede residents' pride in their local area. The objectives are to deliver improvements to Chertsey Town Centre.

In order to present concept plans for improvements to Guildford St, consultants and officers will be taking it to public consultation for 3 weeks (1<sup>st</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> March).

The improvements to Guildford Street will affect residents and visitors to Chertsey

**B. Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality?** Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential for adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination.

The Protected Characteristics are; Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

Any impact from the consultation on the wider borough community, including those groups with protected characteristics is likely to be positive by encouraging people of all ages, women who come within the protected characteristic of pregnant & maternity, and anyone with a disability to have access to plans in their preferred format.

Consultation exhibition will be moveable as a pop up which is going to be in two set venue in the town centre. The aim is to have two unmanned exhibition at the Revive Café, and the other at the Chertsey library which will attract a wide mix of people from pregnant ladies and young children to groups that facilitate those with disabilities.

Other exhibitions will have the opportunity to hold a pop up at the Riverbourne Gym and the Chertsey Museum.

The table below highlights points that have been considered as positives and negatives of the exhibition, that may directly impact those protected characteristics of age, pregnancy & maternity, and disability the following points:

Positive of expansion	Negatives of expansion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider choice of locations in Chertsey Town Centre to exhibit the concept drawings.</li> <li>• Drawings and questions will also be posted on the council website by using Microsoft survey</li> <li>• Runnymede Access Liaison Group (RALG) have also been contacted to support their representative to comment on the consultation.</li> <li>• Covering all hours across the weeks will allow those protected characteristics access to the consultation at hours that best suit them</li> <li>• Having manned and unmanned exhibitions allows for face to face questions and help with completing surveys/questionnaires</li> <li>• Poster will be hung on shop windows in Guildford St to allow for passers by to scan and upload consultation materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three-week consultation is due to the limitation of developing the project under tight funding criteria</li> <li>• Consideration of promotion to those who have hearing and visual impairment. (RALG)</li> <li>• Consideration is needed for advertising/promotion to those with hearing and visual impairment (RALG)</li> <li>• Offering larger prints and an option for a walkabout to go through the consultation if requested by RALG</li> </ul>

The table shows that both the younger and older people (the protected characteristic of age) will have access to the consultation through either visiting a site where the exhibition is being held or using the online digital option.

A digital option could positive impact anyone within the protected characteristic of disability due to breathing related issues and struggles to walk to places.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not engage any protected characteristics then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities please complete Part C.

**C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion?** Alternatively, if there it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected of Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of ‘no relevance’ or ‘no data’ is not sufficient.

Considering the wide range of engagement planned for the consultation proposed, Officers believe this work demonstrates that there is little negative impact to the protected characteristics considered in Part B thus completing an equalities screening assessment is adequate at this stage.  
The consultation proposal considers a range of opportunities for the protected characteristics to be made aware of the consultation and to respond to the proposed improvement work.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Sign-off by senior manager:



Phil Turner (Asst CX – Place)

