



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Partial Assessment Form

Policy, practice, function or project assessed	Foodstore Provision in North West Cambridge
Lead Officer	Claire Spencer (SCDC) / Sara Saunders (Cambridge City Council)
Team	Planning Policy
Start date of assessment	23 June 2010
Completion of assessment	

Please use this form to record your findings in relation to the assessment of an existing policy, function, service or practice.

A. POLICY, PRACTICE, FUNCTION OR PROJECT TO BE ASSESSED

A1. Please describe what are the main aims, objectives, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy or function?

The Foodstore Provision in North West Cambridge document is Informal Planning Policy Guidance (IPPG) relating to future food retail (convenience goods) provision in the North West quadrant of Cambridge (NWC). It is joint informal planning policy guidance produced by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to coordinate retail development within this quadrant of the City.

Three large developments are proposed in the area, including: the University site covered by the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (covering land in the City and South Cambs), NIAB 1 and NIAB 2 (within the City and South Cambs respectively), and Orchard Park (in South Cambs). These will generate an additional 7,000 dwellings and 2,000 student units by 2021, 2,000 more than originally included in the Cambridge Sub-Regional Retail Study (2008) which formed the evidence base for the Councils' Local Development Frameworks (LDF). A Local Centre is proposed to serve each development and developers aspire to greater retail provision. Therefore it is necessary to establish the need for future convenience floorspace taking into consideration the greater level of housing proposed and effectively plan for this need across the whole quadrant. It is not practical to prepare a statutory plan in the timescales available and therefore an informal planning policy statement has been prepared that closely follows the formal procedures to provide as much as weight as possible to the document in guiding decisions on development proposals. The first stage in this process is to prepare an Options Report for public consultation in order for people to have a say before a firm view is formed and developed in the IPPG.

The proposed objectives for retail in NWC, which the IPPG seeks to address include:

- To create sustainable communities with a quality of provision of shopping and services in sustainable locations, to serve the new and existing population, and reduce the need to travel overall, particularly by car.
- To establish an appropriate hierarchy of centres in the North West of Cambridge.
- To secure high quality of design in centres, and ensure that they integrate well with the surrounding development.
- To secure a high degree of sustainable design and construction for retail units in line with BREEM retail 'excellent' standards or equivalent, in order to make the best use of energy and other natural resources and minimise carbon dioxide emissions.
- To maximise the opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport use to access the centres by carefully considering the locations of each centre.

A2. Is this policy or function associated with any other Council policy or priority?

The South Cambridgeshire LDF, Cambridge Local Plan and North West Cambridge Area Action Plan contain a number of relevant policies, including:

- Policy NW21 'A Local Centre' in the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (jointly prepared by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council): www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/nwcaap
- South Cambridgeshire LDF Core Strategy and Site Specific Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD), in particular Policy SP/1 'Cambridge Northern Fringe West (Orchard Park)' and Policy SP/2 'North West Cambridge Huntingdon Road to Histon Road' (known as NIAB 2) in the Site Specific Policies DPD: www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/sspdpd
- Saved policies 9/3 'Development in Urban Extensions', policy 9/8 'Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road' (known as NIAB 1) and policy 6/8(d) which supports convenience shopping in the new urban extensions, in the Cambridge Local Plan: www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/content/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/cambridge-local-plan.en

The IPPG is intended to provide supplementary information on retail need and the Councils' policy for convenience food provision in NWC for the determination of planning applications for the three developments (regarding NIAB 1 and NIAB 2 as a single urban extension) in accordance with the policies in the above documents.

The following Corporate aims for South Cambridgeshire District Council are also relevant:

- Corporate Aim B: We are committed to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for you and your family.
- Corporate Aim C: We are committed to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.

In addition, the following Medium Terms Objectives for Cambridge City Council also apply:

- A City which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community;
- A City which recognises and meets needs for housing of all kinds – close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities;
- A City in the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution;
- A City whose citizens feel that they can influence public decision making and are equally keen to pursue individual and community initiative; and
- A City where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot.

A3. Who are the intended beneficiaries/stakeholders of the policy or function? How many people are affected and from what sections of the community?

The delivery of development in NWC will assist the local economy as well as new and existing residents, both within Cambridge and South Cambs district. The developments will deliver a mixture of residential, employment, retail, recreational and other community uses with the intention of creating balanced communities.

The IPPG seeks to ensure the correct amount and distribution of food retail provision across each of the developments to support sustainable communities and sustainable transport patterns. This will help improve local access to retail provision for new and existing residents, and minimise road traffic impact and carbon emissions on the immediate and wider areas. Local provision would also give local people in the area access to food retail by non-car modes.

Delivery of the development allocations will involve a number of stakeholders to ensure the provision of all necessary infrastructure to serve the developments.

A4. Is the policy/function corporate and far-reaching?

Meets Councils' corporate aims (see A2 above).

A5. Are you expecting to make any significant change to the policy or service in the near future? If so, please give details.

Yes, the IPPG Options Report provides local people and stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on a number of options for food retail provision in NWC. The Councils will consider the representations received through the public consultation before developing an agreed approach.

A6. Is this a new or existing policy or function?

The IPPG is a new document providing informal planning policy guidance to assist the determination of planning applications and delivery of sustainable developments. It will sit alongside the planning policies contained in the adopted development plan documents (listed in A2 above).

B. EVIDENCE/ DATA and CONSULTATION

It is important to consider all information that is available in determining whether the policy or function could have a differential impact. Please attach examples of monitoring information, research or consultation reports.

B1. What monitoring or other information do you have about relevant target groups, which will show the impact of the policy or function?

South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report indicators:

- Core Output Indicator CO-BD4 Amount of completed floorspace for 'town centre uses'.
- Local Output Indicator LOA9 Amount of committed floorspace for 'town centre uses'.
- Local Output Indicator LOB4 Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services.
- SSLO 7 Development at Cambridge Northern Fringe West (Orchard Park).
- SSLO 8 Development at North West Cambridge Huntingdon Road to Histon Road.

Cambridge Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report indicators:

- Core Output Indicator CO BD4 Amount of floorspace for town centres.
- Core Output Indicator NWCO5 Employment uses in Local Centre.

B2. Have you compared the data you have with the equality profile of the local population? What does it show?

These developments are currently allocations within the respective development plans and, not including parts of Orchard Park, are not yet developed and occupied. With the exception of the University site, the NWC sites will provide mixed-use developments with a mix of residential units which should accommodate and appeal to all sectors of the community. The University site will provide 50% market housing and 50% key worker housing to meet the needs of the University along with student accommodation.

However, in terms of food retail issues which the IPPG addresses, the transport report accompanying the IPPG shows an existing need in NWC for main foodstore provision. Local people currently travel out of the area, particularly to larger stores in Bar Hill or Milton north of the city, or have to access other stores elsewhere in the City. Provision of food retail within NWC will reduce the need to travel for existing and new residents, and facilitate access by non-car modes to a local facility / facilities.

The IPPG is only concerned with the provision of one particular land use, food retail, in NWC. Main food retail provision locally could have benefits to all of the population and reduce the need to travel and this would be particularly helpful to those without access to a car, including disabled and older residents, as outlined in section C4.

B3. Have you identified any improvements or other changes that could be made from monitoring the data?

The IPPG Options Report will present a series of options for the delivery of retail in NWC for public consultation prior to a firm approach being agreed. It will assist in the delivery of the highest quality sustainable development, taking into account local opinions expressed through the public consultation exercise. Local people, including existing residents, will continue to have the opportunity to share their views and experience and help to shape the place in which they live.

Equalities monitoring will be undertaken as part of the Options Report Consultation. This information will help us to ensure that we are reaching all sections of the community in and near this part of Cambridge and will also allow us to adjust our consultation methods where necessary.

B4. Have you consulted or involved external stakeholders about the policy or function? If so, what were their views?

The IPPG is accompanied by a Supplementary Retail Study prepared by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners and a Transport Study, which has been prepared by Atkins. The recommendations of these studies have been incorporated into the IPPG Option Report.

The Options Report will be subject to six-weeks public consultation with a range of external stakeholders from 6 September to 18 October 2010. A Statement of Consultation will be produced and will detail the representations received and how they inform the proposed approach in the IPPG.

B5. Have you undertaken any consultation with staff to assess their perception of any impacts of the policy or function? If so, what has been learnt from them?

Yes, internal consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the IPPG, including with the Major Developments, Joint Urban Design Team, Sustainability Officers, and New Communities teams, with transport officers at Cambridgeshire County Council and with senior officers of the 3 Councils and Cambridgeshire Horizons. This has ensured the preparation of an IPPG that takes account of all relevant interests.

B6. Please provide information about any other consultation, research, or involvement undertaken in relation to this impact assessment.

The IPPG will be published for six-weeks public consultation, as detailed in B4 above. A public notice will be placed in the Cambridge News at the start of the public consultation. A number of stakeholders will be sent a letter and CD-Rom containing the public participation document, supporting documents, and forms for making comments. All documents will be available to view and / or download from the Councils' websites and a link included from the home pages. An interactive online version of the consultation document will also be available on the City Council's website and link provided from South Cambridgeshire's website to enable people to make comments online during the consultation period, as well as Word and PDF versions of a response form that can be completed and emailed / posted to the Councils. South Cambs Magazine, which is delivered to every household in the district, will also include information on the consultation. Printed copies of the documents will be also be available to view or purchase at the Councils' offices. There will be a staffed exhibition at the North West Community Forum in September, which is open to all residents living in the North West sector of Cambridge.

C1. IMPACT OF THE POLICY OR FUNCTION

Assess the potential impact on each of the equality strands/groups. The impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you assess a negative impact for any of the groups then you will need to assess whether that impact is low, medium or high. Refer to the evidence you use.

DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT	Nature of Impact (Positive, Neutral, Adverse)	Extent of Impact (Low, Medium, High)
GENDER: Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on men and women	Neutral	
The IPPG should benefit people of any gender, but is not specific to gender.		
RACE: Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different race/ethnic groups	Neutral	
The IPPG should benefit people of any race, but is not specific to race.		
DISABILITY: Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on disabled people	Positive	
See C4		
AGE: Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different age groups	Positive	
See C4		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION: potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual people	Neutral	
The IPPG should benefit people of any sexual orientation, but is not specific to sexual orientation.		
RELIGION/FAITH: Identify the potential impact the policy on different religious/faith groups	Neutral	
The IPPG should benefit people of any religion/faith, but is not specific to religion/faith.		
OTHER	Positive	
People on low income and/or people who cannot or choose not to own a car.		

PLEASE NOTE: Following completion of the section above, if the nature of the impact is adverse then you may need to proceed to a full equality impact assessment.

C2. Could you minimise or remove any adverse or potential impact that is high, medium or low significance, in advance of a full impact assessment? Explain how.

N/A

C3. Does the policy or function actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations? Or could changes be made so that it does so?

The developments in the North West quadrant will include a mix of land uses, including residential, employment, retail, community uses and open space, which are intended to create balanced communities to the benefit all sectors of society. The IPPG will ensure the appropriate level and type of retail provision is made in the right locations across NWC in order to support sustainable communities. This may have an indirect benefit on equal opportunities, as outlined in section C4.

C4. Please provide any further information, qualitative or quantitative that does not fit into the questions but you feel has a likely impact on this assessment.

The development plans set out the policy framework to shape future developments and these policies are used in the development of Masterplans for larger development sites and in the determination of planning applications. The IPPG may have a slight positive impact on Disability and Age as appropriate levels of retail provision in the local area may make shopping more accessible to the all groups in the community, particularly those without access to a car. There may also be greater opportunity for people to make multi-purpose trips to the local centres where community uses and retail shopping will be located, for example dropping off / picking up children from the primary school and undertaking food shopping.

D. CONCLUSIONS			
D1. Was there sufficient data to complete the partial assessment?	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If “NO”, what arrangements are in place for evidence gathering and continuing with the assessment?
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D2. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have an adverse impact (medium or high impact) on one or more target group?	Yes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “YES”, will you proceed to a full assessment? If so, what arrangements are in place to carry out the full assessment?
	No?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
D3. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have a neutral or positive impact on equalities?	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If “YES”, have you included proposals in the Action Plan to further improve the impact of the policy or function on equalities? Yes
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you plan to review the service or policy again in future to assess whether there has been any change? If so, when? No Has the Equalities Steering Group and the Consultative Forum reviewed the assessment? If so what were their comments? No
D4. Do you have any other conclusions/outcomes from the partial assessment?			

ACTION PLAN for enhancing existing practice

Recommendation/ issue to be addressed	Planned Milestone	Planned completion of milestone (date)	Officer Responsible	Progress
The success of the IPPG will be through the delivery of an appropriate scale of food retail in the NWC developments, which will be monitored through the Councils' Annual Monitoring Reports.		Annually		

RESOURCES

Does the above action plan require any additional resources?

No resource issues have been identified.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING

Please give your plans for monitoring the achievement of the above actions.

SIGN OFF: The officers below confirm that this partial assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's guidance

Signature of Lead Officer:		Date:
Signature of Corporate Manager or Chief Officer:		Date:

Please retain the original form on your service area and return a copy of the completed form to the Equality & Diversity Officer.