Halton Borough Council

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document

November 2010

Operational Director
Environmental and Regulatory Services
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

Directorate	Resources	**Division / Team**	Policy and Strategy
Job Title of persons completing form	Senior Policy Officer and Policy Officer	**Date of screening**	15/10/10
Name of policy / strategy / function	Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document	**Is this a new or existing policy?**	New

Equality Impact Assessment Contents

List of Tables

1. Introduction

1.1 The Equalities Review (2007) says that "an equal society protects and promotes equal, real freedom and opportunity to live in the way people value and would choose, so that everyone can flourish. An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations and goals, and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and be".

1.2 To ensure the Core Strategy Publication Document contributes to an equal society, an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been used to highlight the likely impact of the Core Strategy Policies have on different groups, and to show how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in relation to the development of the policies. By doing this, ways can be found to improve the policies such that areas of discrimination are eliminated and the needs of Halton's communities are better served.

1.3 The need for an EqIA to be undertaken stems from the duty placed on Public Authorities to eliminate unlawful discrimination in carrying out their function, and promoting equality of access and opportunity for all communities. Local Authorities are also specifically required to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and how they promote equality in all aspects of strategic decision making and service provision. EqIA's are considered the best way to do this. The Equality Act (2010), brings disability, sex, race and other grounds of discrimination within one piece of legislation and places a new duty on Local Authorities to consider what actions they can take to reduce socio-economic equalities people face. The Borough's Corporate Equality Scheme 2009-2012 also highlights the importance of equality being mainstreamed in the delivery of all council services.

2.   The Approach and Structure of the Equality Impact Assessment

2.1   The publication version of the Core Strategy EqIA follows a similar approach and structure to that set out in national guidance and particularly the guidance from the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA)[1]. A brief summary is included below.

Stage 1: Initial Screening

2.2   Initial screening of all new or revised policies, strategies, procedures and functions should determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full EqIA. This is based on whether the area of work will have the potential to cause adverse impacts or discriminate against different groups in the community described in the Act as protected characteristics.

2.3   Due to the scope of the Core Strategy there may be potential to cause adverse impacts or to discriminate against different groups. It was therefore considered appropriate to carry out an EqIA screening of the Core Strategy Publication document.

Stage 2: Scoping and Defining

2.4   Different perspectives and experiences are used in undertaking an EqIA. As a result the team involved in the Core Strategy Publication Document assessment which took place between 15th and 29th October 2010, employed technical expertise and specialist knowledge from across the Council divisions including:

- Environment and Regulatory Services;
- Children and Young People;
- Adults and Community;
- Major Projects; and,
- Policy and Strategy;

Stage 3: Information Gathering

2.5   Stage 3 of the assessment aims to identify the sources of information which will be used to assist in the determination of whether the Core Strategy Publication Document is likely to have an adverse impact or discriminate against different groups. The information used for this stage of the EqIA of the Core Strategy Publication document has drawn upon a wide evidence base including:

- Census data
- National and Local Statistics
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), (2007)
- Halton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), (2009)
- Halton State of the Borough Report, (2010)
- Halton's Economic Profile, (2009)

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[1] IDeA (2009) The EqIA Process: Six-Step Guide, available at: http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8017502

2.6   Using the information gathered from the sources listed above, section 3 provides some base-line information on the different protected characteristic focused upon in this assessment.

Stage 4: Making a Judgement
2.7   This stage is used to decide whether or not there is potential for a strategy or policy to result in a less favourable outcome or discrimination of any kind on any group in a community.

2.8   As the Core Strategy Publication document contains numerous policies dealing with a diversity of topics this stage has been broken into two parts. The first part of the assessment (section 5) focuses on the individual policies and the second part (section 6) assesses the policies in combination, summarising the effects of the Core Strategy Publication document.

Stage 5: Action Planning
2.9   The real value of completing an EqIA comes from the actions that will take place and the positive changes that will emerge through conducting the assessment. A recommendations section has been included in section 8.

Stage 6: Publication and Review
2.10   It is recommended best practice to publish EqIA to ensure transparency. It is also important to show the local community that the Council is actively engaged and committed to challenging potential discrimination, as well as improving its service delivery in relation to equalities.

2.11   The Council will be consulting on the contents of this EqIA at the same time as it is inviting representations on the Publication Version of the Core Strategy document, from the 29th November 2010 to 24th January 2011. Any comments on this assessment can be returned:

Online at: www.halton.gov.uk/spatialplanning where an online form can be completed

By emailing: forward.planning@halton.gov.uk

In writing to: Halton Core Strategy
                    Environment and Regulatory Services
                    Halton Borough Council
                    Rutland House
                    Halton Lea
                    Runcorn
                    WA7 2GW

By phoning: 0303 333 4300

3. Protected Characteristic

3.1 The EqIA focuses on specific protected characteristics in the Borough and includes:

- Race and Ethnicity;
- Gender;
- Disability;
- Sexual Orientation;
- Transgender;
- Age;
- Religion/Belief;
- Pregnancy/Maternity;
- Marital/Civil Partnerships status
- Carers; and,
- Socio Economic Disadvantage

3.2 It should be acknowledged through the EqIA that these groups are not homogeneous. People within these equality groups may have different and individual needs and many of the members of one group may also be members of several groups. Additionally, the implementation of the policies within the Core Strategy will have an impact on Halton's communities as a whole and not just those identified in the different protected characteristic.

3.3 The table below (table 1) presents some base-line information on the different protected characteristic focused upon in this EqIA.

Protected Characteristic	Explanation/Comments
Race & Ethnicity	• The 2001 census showed that Halton at that time had a low proportion of people from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, 2.4% of the total population. This compares to the England average of 10%. • Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are recognised ethnic minority groups. In the North West these groups are identified as having less access to healthcare, are less well supported by unemployment services and suffer from educational exclusion.[2]
Gender	• Gender is essentially balanced in Halton with 51.7% of residents being female and 48.3% male. • Research[3] shows that women are likely to spend more time in and around the home and the local community. Therefore the provision of locally accessible services, and a good quality and safe environment is particularly important.
Disability	• Although there is no single measure of the proportion of the

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[2] NWDA (2005) North West Action for Equality Report.
[3] DCLG (2004) Planning and Diversity: Research into policies

	population with a disability, the 2001 census identified that 21.5% of the population in Halton indicated that they had a limiting long-term illness. This is significantly higher than the average for England and Wales which is 18.2%. • The overall pattern shows a strong relationship between levels of learning disability with areas of deprivation in Halton.
Sexual Orientation	• Although there are no definite statistics about sexuality, the Government estimates that between 5 and 7% of the population are gay men, lesbian or trans-sexual.
Transgender	• Although there are no definite statistics about sexuality, the Government estimates that between 5 and 7% of the population are gay men, lesbian or trans-sexual.
Age	• At present Halton has a younger population profile than the national and regional averages. However, Halton mirrors the national picture of an ageing population, with projections indicating that the population of the Borough will age at a faster rate than the national average. • Halton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment[4] states that in 1996 12.9% of the total population were aged 65 and over, by 2006 this had increased to nearly 14% and by 2015 this is projected to have increased to 17%. • The assessment also identifies that in Halton almost 6,000 adults live alone and it is projected by 2025 that over 8,500 pensioners will be living alone.
Religion/Belief	• The community in Halton is made up of a number of different religions and beliefs. • Over recent years there has been a growth in realisation that faith communities may play a vital role in building community networks[5].
Carers	• As the elderly population in Halton increases there is also predicted to be a steady increase in the number of carers. The Halton JSNA (2009) indicates an increased demand for services to support carers in Halton.
Marital Status/Civil Partnerships	• The 2001 Census data reveals that with regard to same-sex couples 45.4% of Haltons' residents are single, 34.2% are married, 1.8% are separated (but still legally married and 5.2% are re-married. Compared to the regional and national figures Halton has a slightly higher percentage of single people. • The 2001 Census identifies a very small percentage of people aged over 16 were in a same-sex relationship, only 0.1% of Halton's residents. This is similar to regional (0.16%) and national (0.2%) figures. Data is also available from ONS on the number of civil partnerships formed in Halton.
Pregnancy/Maternity	• The Office for National Statistics provides vital statistic information (including births) down to ward level on an annual basis. The data shows that there were 1,656 live births in Halton in 2008, 833 of these were male whilst 823 were female.

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[4] Halton Borough Council (2009), Health and Wellbeing in Halton 2009: Halton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary of Findings, available at: http://www2.halton.gov.uk/pdfs/socialcareandhealth/Healthwellbeinginhalton2009
[5] CLG (2004) Planning and Diversity: Research into Policies and Procedures, available at:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/planningdiversity

	• In line with the birth statistics, ONS also provide numbers of teenage conceptions at local authority level. In 2008 there were 131 conceptions to women aged under 18 in Halton (52.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-17). The latest figures show that Halton has a higher rate of teenage conception when compared to the North West and England & Wales.
Socio – Economic Disadvantage	• The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD) can be used to identify disadvantaged groups and areas in Halton. • Halton's overall deprivation score and rank have improved since the previous IMD in 2004, with the proportion of Halton's population living in the worst 20% of SOAs[6] nationally falling to 48.5% in 2007 from 50% in 2004. However, Halton's rank of 30 out of 376 English Local Authorities, with a rank of 1 being the most deprived, and the Borough's comparison to Merseyside Authorities illustrates that the Borough is still performing poorly in terms of overall deprivation. ***The Health Deprivation & Disability Domain*** • The health and disability domain of the Halton IMD is the one which shows the most SOAs in the most deprived 4% nationally. Although this has increased from 2004, the number of wards in the top 20% has decreased. Overall this is showing that the gap is widening between the healthiest and least healthy parts of the Borough and a clear link to ill health and deprivation. ***The Employment Domain*** • Employment deprivation is the second most severe deprivation within Halton (after health) and has also risen in the highest 4% bracket, from 12 SOAs to 14, illustrating again the gap is widening between the most and least deprived areas. ***The Income Domain*** • Income deprivation has broadly improved. However, income deprivation is still a severe problem in the wards of Windmill Hill, Halton Castle, Halton Lea, and Kingsway, i.e. the current Neighbourhood Management Areas, and to some extent Halton Brook. ***The Education & Skills Training Domain*** • The education, skills and training domain includes average points for key stages 2, 3 and 4, plus young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). At the time of the IMD the results for this domain had declined. • In relation to NEET's the current rate in Halton according to the Economic Profile (2008)[7] is 9.5% of people aged 16-18, with the highest rate and the highest number of NEET's currently being in the Kingsway ward. For comparison the NEET figures for Merseyside and the North West for 2006 were 10.9% and 9.4% respectively. ***The Crime & Disorder Domain*** • The crime domain shows an increase in the number of SOAs in the worst 20% nationally from 10 to 25. • Overall, Halton ranks 65th out of 376 English Local Authorities in

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[6] SOAs (Super Output Areas) are small geographical units used as the building blocks for the IMD. Since they are smaller than wards, SOAs enable a finer level of data analysis to be carried out.
[7] Halton Borough Council (2008), Halton Economic Profile, available at:
http://www2.halton.gov.uk/pdfs/councilanddemocracy/research/hep_mar08

	terms of total offences per 1000 population, compared to 140th in 2004 showing a significant increase.
	• The Consulting the Communities of Halton survey[8] also highlights how fear of crime in the Borough is a large concern for residents. The need to reduce crime was mentioned by around one in six (16.4%) residents as a factor that would be most effective in making the local area a better place to live.
	The Living Environment Domain
	• The living environment domain includes housing in poor condition and houses without central heating, as well as poor air quality and accidents to pedestrians and cyclists. This domain remains largely unchanged since 2004, with the number of SOAs in the worst 20% nationally remaining at 12.
	The Barriers to Housing and Service Domain
	• This domain includes housing affordability and distance to local facilities as well as overcrowding or homeless applications. For these reasons the SOAs exhibit a broadly different pattern as compared to other domains. For instance Daresbury and Heath are amongst top ranking wards due to potentially higher house prices and greater distances to local amenities.

Table 1: Protected Characteristics within Halton

4.   The Core Strategy Development Plan Document

4.1   Once adopted, the Halton Core Strategy will be the central document within the Halton Local Development Framework (LDF), providing the overarching strategy for the development of Halton to 2026 and beyond. The policies within the Core Strategy, along with those from the other Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will eventually replace the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as the adopted planning framework for Halton. This "Publication" stage constitutes the final round of public consultation on the preparation of the Core Strategy, following on from the "Issues and Options" and "Preferred Options" consultation, which took place in 2006 and 2009 respectively.

4.2   The Core Strategy Publication document follows a structure that can be traced through the entire document. The document begins with highlighting Halton's existing characteristics, and the issues and challenges facing the Borough as a place to live and work. A future vision and a number of strategic objectives are then expressed, setting out the core policy directions for the document. Flowing from this is the Spatial Strategy for Halton showing how change will be delivered over the plan period and highlighting the Borough's Key Areas of Change. The Core Strategy is then supported by a series of core, non-area-based policies which will help to deliver the vision, objectives and spatial strategy.

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[8] Halton Strategic Partnership (2005), Consulting the Communities of Halton 2005, available at:
http://www2.halton.gov.uk/pdfs/councilanddemocracy/521389

1	What are the aims and objectives of the strategy?	The purpose of the Core Strategy is to establish the spatial distribution of future growth and development in the Borough.
		The Core Strategy vision or "Mission Statement" is for Halton in 2026 to:
		"In 2026, Halton is well equipped to meet its own needs with housing for all sections of society, a range of employment opportunities, plus retail and leisure facilities for everyone. Halton continues to contribute positively to achieving the economic, environmental and social potential of the Liverpool City Region and the North West.
		Thriving and diverse residential communities are emerging at Sandymoor, Daresbury and Runcorn Waterfront while additional high quality housing in other locations across Runcorn and Widnes are reinforcing and diversifying the Borough's residential offer, responding to the needs of the Borough's communities. There has been a renewed emphasis on the delivery of affordable housing providing accommodation for those who were previously unable to access the type of home they required.
		The Borough's economy has been strengthened by the expansion of key employment areas at Daresbury, 3MG, Mersey Gateway Port and Widnes Waterfront, and Halton has developed an important role in the sub-region for sustainable distribution and logistics and in high-tech science and research. Halton's residents are well equipped with the skills needed to compete for jobs in all sectors and locations throughout the Borough, where existing employment areas have been retained and improved through appropriate regeneration to meet the needs of modern employers. The Borough's traditional industries, centred on the chemicals sector, continue to play a key role in both Runcorn and Widnes.
		Retail and leisure centres in the Borough maintain their function as key areas for the provision of shops, services and community facilities. The town centres at Widnes and Halton Lea offer vibrant and busy destinations for people to do their shopping, access services and meet one another. Runcorn Old Town has developed into a unique location for shopping and leisure, with a niche role compared to the two main town centres in the Borough.
		Development across the Borough is highly sustainable and contributes to the health and well-being of Halton's communities, has made the best use of previously developed land and has utilised infrastructure and resources efficiently. Climatic risks continue to be managed and mitigated and development has contributed to minimising Halton's carbon footprint. Additionally, Halton benefits from high quality infrastructure serving new and existing development.

| | | The rural character and setting of the Borough's villages of Moore, Daresbury and Preston on the Hill within the Green Belt has been retained through restrictions on new development. The character of Hale Village (inset within the Green Belt), has also been protected, and any negative impacts associated with the expansion at Liverpool John Lennon Airport are minimised. The Borough's Green Belt continues to provide a vital resource for current and future residents and keeping important spaces between settlements.

The historic and natural environments across Halton have been conserved and enhanced for future generations and the Borough's multifunctional Green Infrastructure network fulfils the recreational needs of residents, contributes to general well-being and provides important linked diverse habitats. Additionally, Halton's legacy of contaminated land continues to be remediated and regenerated, and development responds to the potential risks of major accidents and flooding.

Transport routes both through the Borough and to surrounding areas are intrinsic to how the Borough functions on its own and as part of the sub-region, for the movement of goods and people. A second river crossing between the Borough's towns of Runcorn and Widnes, in the form of the Mersey Gateway Project, has been secured, improving connections and acting as a major sub-regional catalyst for development and regeneration".

In order for Halton to achieve this vision, the Core Strategy sets out a series of strategic objectives. |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | **What outcomes are wanted from the strategy?** | The Core Strategy intends to deliver a number of outcomes over the period to 2026, all of which will help to deliver the Core Strategy vision as set out above.

More detail relating to the anticipated outcomes of the individual policies can be found in the monitoring framework of the Core Strategy Publication document. |
3	**Who is intended to benefit from the strategy?**	The outcomes intended by the Core Strategy are wide ranging and are envisaged to benefit all of Halton's residents, visitors and businesses.
4	**Who are the main stakeholders, and who has lead responsibility for delivery of the strategy?**	Halton Borough Council will be primarily responsible for the delivery of the strategy; however, commitment from other stakeholders will be fundamental to ensure the Core Strategy's implementation. This may involve partnership working between the Council, Halton Strategic Partnership, national agencies like English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency, the voluntary and community sector, and land owning interests such as water companies, transport bodies and private landowners.
5	**Please list any policies related to the one being assessed:**	The Core Strategy, once adopted, will form the central document of Halton's LDF which will also include all DPDs and SPDs.

		The Core Strategy is an important corporate Council document and will be closely related to a number of policies and strategies across the Council including Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy, economic strategies, the Children and Young People's Plan and many more. The Core Strategy also has regard to, and is in compliance with, a number of national polices including national Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Guidance Notes (PPG)

Table 2: Core Strategy Summary

5.   Screening the Publication version of the Core Strategy

5.1   As the previous section has highlighted, the Core Strategy Publication document includes a diversity of topics and covers a wide range of issues. The first part of this section therefore focuses on assessing the individual policies of the Core Strategy Publication document, screening their potential impacts on each of the protected characteristic.

5.2   Table 3 outlines the key characteristics of each policy and summarises whether there is the potential for the policy to have a positive or negative impact on each of the protected characteristic identified in section 1.3. Please note that for the purposes of the screening, the policies from the Core Strategy Publication document have been used and the policy summaries provided in the table are only to be used as a quick point of reference.

5.3   The key below identifies the symbols used to highlight the likely impact on each of the groups that an individual policy may have. Where a policy is likely to impact upon all of Halton's communities this has been identified as neutral, as there is no disproportionate impact for any specific group.

Symbol	Likely Impact
+	Positive
o	Neutral
-	Negative

Core Strategy Policy	Race	Gender	Disability	Sexual orientation	Age	Religion / belief	Carers	Socio-economic Disadvantage	Transgender	Marital Status/Civil Partnerships	Pregnancy/Maternity	Commentary
CS1: Halton's Spatial Strategy This policy sets out the overall strategy for delivering housing and employment requirements across the Borough and starts to identify priorities and key locations for development.	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	Halton's Spatial Strategy establishes the spatial distribution of future growth and development in the Borough and so flows into all policies within the Core Strategy. The three groups highlighted through the assessment of the Spatial Strategy (disability, age and disadvantaged groups) therefore reflect the key groups that have been repeatedly identified as having positive impacts through the Core Strategy Policy. The Spatial Strategy focuses on development in defined urban areas close to existing services and facilities increasing access and connectivity and reducing the need to travel. This will have a positive impact for those with a disability, disadvantaged groups and will take into account the needs of an ageing population. Delivering housing diversity, health improvements and employment opportunities in the Key Areas of Change will also benefit those in disadvantaged groups. These positive effects are repeated throughout the Core Strategy policies in the assessment.

Policy												Description
CS2: Sustainable Development Principles In order to ensure that growth and development in the Borough is sustainable, this policy establishes a number of principles for all development to meet. These principles reflect the current social, economic and environmental needs of the Borough.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Achieving sustainable development will have a significant positive impact for all members of Halton's communities including the identified protected charac teristic of each equality group. There is therefore no disproportionate impact for any of the protected characteristic.
CS3: Housing Supply and Locational Priorities This policy seeks to make provision for housing supply in the Borough and the broad locational priorities for new housing development.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	One of the locational priorities for housing supply is to consider additional housing allocations in Key Areas of change. This intervention could potentially improve housing diversity in these areas with the potential to benefit disadvantaged groups and ultimately ensure balanced and sustainable communities.
CS4: Employment Supply and Locational Priorities This policy seeks to make provision for new employment land in the Borough and broad locational priorities for new development, including expanding the number of start-up units and grow-on space to support entrepreneurs in the Borough, and to facilitate the growth of fledgling companies.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	As with housing supply, one of the priorities for employment supply is to search for small scale development sites within Key areas of Change with the aim of providing local jobs which are accessible for local people. This should benefit local residents within these areas, improving the skills base, lowering unemployment and increasing income.
CS5: A Network of Centres for Halton This policy establishes a hierarchy for retail centres in Halton, categorising them and broadly defining their roles.	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	A Network of centres for Halton focuses on improving resident's accessibility to services and facilities. Improving the health and welfare of residents in these areas will also have a positive impact on addressing the needs. Key benefits include improved access to services and facilities, and opportunities to provide and promote digital inclusivity.

Policy												Comments
CS6: Green Belt This policy seeks to ensure that the green belt will remain largely unchanged with the exception of LJLA runway expansion.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the equality groups.
CS7: Infrastructure Provision This policy recognises the strategic importance of ensuring that Halton's infrastructure is both modern and of a high quality, as it is essential to deliver necessary improvements to the Borough's existing infrastructure and to provide new infrastructure able to accommodate the needs of Halton's communities.	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	By taking advantage of development and regeneration opportunities attributable to new development in the Borough there may be a number of positive impacts for the equality groups. For instance the delivery of additional infrastructure will assist in improved accessibility and connectivity acrossthe Borough, benefitting people with mobility issues including people with a disability and the elderly. Employment opportunities may also potentially benefit disadvantaged groups in the Borough by providing additional high quality infrastructue.
CS8: Key Area of Change – 3MG This policy seeks to capitalise on locational advantages to strengthen the logistics and distribution sector in Halton by further development and expansion of facilities at the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) at Ditton, with associated accessibility and environmental improvements.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	By contributing towards improving the quality of life of residents at Ditton and Halebank the policy will positively impact upon disadvantaged groups in these areas. The 3MG Key Area of Change may also provide employment opportunities for local people in the Borough.
CS9: Key Area of Change – South Widnes This policy seeks to improve the	o	+	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	By improving connectivity and access across this Key Area of Change, there will be a

Policy												Commentary
performance of Widnes Town Centre, continue the economic development of Widnes Waterfront through the rejuvenation of brownfield and redundant sites, and support regeneration in West Bank, including increased connectivity.												positive benefit for a number of equality groups including those with a disability and women with young children. Increasing connectivity and access may also support healthy activities for instance walking and cycling which would potentially benefit all ages including the active elderly. Disadvantaged groups would also benefit, especially in regard to the regeneration opportunities connected to the West Bank residential neighbourhood (one of the proposed Neighbourhood Priority Areas) and potential local employment opportunities in the Town Centre and at Widnes Waterfront.
CS10: Key Area of Change – West Runcorn This policy seeks to deliver housing growth at Runcorn Docks, employment growth at the Mersey Gateway Port (Weston Docks), and improve the performance of Runcorn Old Town centre, including improved linkages with residential communities.	o	+	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	Improved access and connectivity across this Key Area of Change will have a positive impact for members of the population including those with a disability, the elderly and women with young children. This will be especially beneficial for those groups accessing community services and facilities including Riverside College.
CS11: Key Area of Change – East Runcorn This policy seeks to deliver housing growth and establish sustainable communities at Sandymoor and Daresbury, and support employment growth in this location, including in the business sector at Daresbury Park and in the knowledge and research sector at the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the protected characteristics.

CS12: Housing Mix This policy ensures that housing proposals have regard to identified local needs in terms of size, type and tenure of dwellings.	+	o	+	o	+	o	+	+	o	o	o	Housing which meets the needs of the whole community will have a significant positive impact for all. In terms of the equality groups providing a diversity of houses will specifically address the needs of those on low incomes, people with disabilities, an ageing population, young families and BME groups.
CS13: Affordable Housing This policy aims to ensure that all (qualifying) housing developments make provision for an element of affordable housing.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	Affordable housing provision will especially benefit those on low incomes identified through the IMD.
CS14: Meeting the Needs of Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Communities This policy seeks to ensure that adequate pitch provision is made across the Borough for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People. The policy reflects locational requirements for sites, including the need to offer convenient access to education, health and retail services.	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are recognised ethnic minority groups, and so providing adequate pitch and site provision will have a positive impact on the 'race' equality strand. Ensuring good access to health facilities from new pitches and sites will positively benefit the elderly, young people and those with a disability within this minority group. Educational access should also benefit the younger age groups and there may also be opportunities for life long learning.
CS15: Sustainable Transport This policy seeks to enhance the sustainable travel options available in Halton including walking, cycling and public transport. By doing so, the policy should make journeys easier, healthier and more reliable for	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	Encouraging sustainable transport will benefit those with disabilities, older and younger people without access to a private vehicle, and people on low incomes.

Policy												Impact
residents, businesses and visitors. In addition the policy seeks to support and increase transport options for those without access to a private vehicle.												
CS16: The Mersey Gateway Project This policy seeks to promote the Mersey Gateway project which will connect communities and lead to regeneration and investment throughout the Borough and the wider North West Region.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the protected characteristic.
CS17: Liverpool John Lennon Airport This policy relates to the operation and planned expansion of Liverpool John Lennon Airport.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the. protected characteristic.
CS18: High Quality Design This policy sets out a number of design principles that all development should meet with the aim of creating high quality environments where people want to live, work and play.	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	New development which is accessible, adaptable and which seeks to design out crime and the risk of crime will have a beneficial impact for all members of Halton's communities and in particular those with a disability, the elderly and disadvantaged groups.
CS19: Sustainable Development and Climate Change This policy seeks to reduce the causes and tackle the effects of climate change by ensuring developments contribute to reductions in carbon emissions, are adaptable to the effects of a changing climate, and are sustainable for current communities and future generations.	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	In the long term the increased use of sustainable design and construction methods/technologies could decrease the cost of heating and servicing a home. This will particularly benefit the elderly and those on low incomes who are more likely to suffer from fuel poverty.

Policy												Commentary
CS20: Halton's Natural and Historic Environment This policy requires all new development to conserve, manage and enhance Halton's historic and natural environments for current and future generations and to ensure a strong sense of place, enhance local distinctiveness and improve environmental quality.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	This policy will have a positive impact for those with a disability and the elderly as conserving and managing the historic and natural environment will assist in improving access for all.
CS21: Green Infrastructure This policy recognises the multi-functionality of Halton's Green Infrastructure and its contribution to improving the quality of life of Halton's residents. The policy aims to manage, expand and improve Green Infrastructure in the Borough.	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	+	o	o	o	Multi-functional Green Infrastructure will increase opportunities for formal and informal recreation supporting residents of all ages and improving resident's health and well-being. Enhancing connectivity and access will also ensure that the Borough's Green Infrastructure is accessible for all.
CS22: Health and Well-Being This policy emphasises the need to support healthy environments, encourage healthy lifestyles and ensure adequate provision of health care facilities in order to achieve and												Measures which support healthy lifestyles will positively benefit all of the Borough's residents, of all ages from children of school age to the needs of an ageing population. Providing adequate health care services and
CS23: Managing Pollution and Risk This policy aims to make a significant contribution to making Halton a safer place to live, work and visit by protecting people and the environment from the consequences of natural or other forces, such as hazardous activities, flooding and the consequences of pollution.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	This policy will benefit all members of Halton's communities; however, there must be consideration of those with a disability and the elderly as these groups may be at the greatest risk in the event of a major hazard. Tackling pollution will benefit all of the Borough's communities.

CS24: Waste This policy promotes sustainable waste management to ensure that waste generated in Halton is treated and disposed of in a sustainable and environmentally acceptable way, balancing the economic, social and environmental needs of the Borough.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the equality groups.
CS25: Minerals This policy aims to manage the Borough's mineral resources through minimising the need for minerals extraction and where proposals for minerals extractions do occur, ensuring that economic, social and environmental issues and impacts are fully considered.	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	No significant impacts are anticipated for the equality groups.

Table 3: Screening the Proposed Submission Document

6. Summary of Impacts

6.1 This section focuses on the overall impact of the Core Strategy policy in combination for each of the protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristic	+ve	o	-ve	Comment
Race	+			Addressing housing needs will have a positive impact on the 'race' equality group especially for BME groups and also in terms of providing adequate pitch and site provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
Gender	+			The proposed submission document should have a positive impact on gender in terms of improving access and connectivity for men and women with young children.
Disability	++			A key theme across all of the policies in the proposed submission document is to improve access for all, especially to community services and facilities. This will have particular positive benefits for people with mobility issues including those with a disability.
Sexual orientation		o		The policies are not envisaged to have any disproportionate impact on this protected characteristic.
Transgender		o		The policies are not envisaged to have any disproportionate impact on this protected characteristic.
Age	++			The policies are likely to have a positive benefit on younger people and on the elderly due to the emphasis on ensuring access to community services and facilities and affordable housing of the right type, size and mix.
Religion / Belief		o		The policies are not envisaged to have any disproportionate impact on this equalities group, apart from positively contributing to the improvement of community networks.
Carers		o		Addressing housing needs through the Core Strategy may result in a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, when the policies are considered in combination there will be no overall disproportionate impact on this protected characteristic
Marital Status/Civil Parnerships		o		The policy is not envisaged to have any disproportionate impact on this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy/ Maternity		o		Ensuring access to community services and facilities and affordable housing of the right type, size and mix will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic

Socio Economic Disadvantage	++			Delivering housing diversity, health improvements and employment opportunities across the Borough, and with a particular emphasis on the Key areas of change, will have a very positive impact for those in disadvantaged groups, including those on low incomes, those seeking to gain access to employment, training and skills, and those with poor health.

Table 4: Assessment of the Core Strategy Submission Document Policy
(**++** significant positive impact)

6.2 Overall, the EqIA reveals that the majority of policies are likely to have a positive or neutral impact on different groups in the community. Positive benefits have been especially identified for the young, elderly, disabled and those identified within deprived groups including the socially excluded. This is because the Core Strategy seek to:

- ensure access and connectivity across the Borough for all, especially in terms of access to community services and facilities;
- deliver housing diversity, health improvements and employment opportunities for Halton's residents and to focus these improvements and interventions in the key areas of change; and,
- ensure that the needs of Halton's diverse communities are fully considered by development.

6.3 The overall summary has not identified any disproportionate negative impacts for any of the protected characteristics.

7.   Consultation

7.1   In addition to determining the likely impact of the policy on the protected characteristic, it is important to consider whether the Core Strategy consultation arrangements have, or will cause, an adverse impact or discriminate against any group in the community.

7.2   The Core Strategy has been prepared and developed in partnership with a number of consultees, key stakeholders and through public consultation of the Issues and Options stage in 2006 and Preferred Options Stage 2009. This has provided opportunities for the needs of all the protected characteristics in the Borough to be considered and for individuals and communities to comment.

7.3   In considering the particular needs of various protected characteristics in the Borough the Core Strategy Submission document has drawn upon a number of policies, guidance and background documents at all spatial levels in the UK, from national to the Borough level. For further information regarding the evidence base and policy documents used for developing the submission document please refer to supporting document 'G' of the Core Strategy Proposed Submission document.

7.4   Additionally, there have been a range of consultation events and mechanisms used for preparing the Core Strategy document. This includes the 2006 Issues and Options consultation and the (2009) Preferred Options consultaton which were prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (2006). The Core Strategy Proposed submission document has also been prepared in accordance with the SCI and is therefore unlikely to cause any adverse impacts or discriminate against any group in the community, including the protected characteristics.

7.5   For further information regarding consultation of the Core Strategy please refer to the Statement of Consultation, supporting document 'D' of the Core Strategy proposed submission document.

8. General, Socio Economic Duty and Recommendations

8.1   This EqIA concludes that the 'Core Strategy proposed submission document' is not considered to have any adverse impacts on the protected characteristics and recommends that a full EqIA is not needed at this stage. This has been ascertained by following the general duty of the Equality Act 2010 (para 8.1.1 – 8.1.3 below) and the Socio Economic duty (para 8.1.4 below) in which the submission document policy has taken account of the need to:-

-   Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
-   Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and;
-   Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
-   For decisions of a strategic nature had due regard been taken to the desirability of exercising it in a way that is designated to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result from social –economic disadvantage.

8.2   The Council will monitor the implementation and impact of the Core Strategy policies through the LDF's Annual Monitoring Report. A framework for the monitoring of policies can be found in appencix 2 of the Core Strategy proposed sumission document. This will provide a robust basis for future monitoring and assessment of the Core Strategy policies.

8.3   Following on from the eight week consultation period, the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to examine the soundness of the plan. Any representations received at the Publication stage will be submitted to the Planning Inspector to be considered alongside the soundness of the plan at the Examination in Public.

8.4   The timetable for the remaining key stages in the production of the Core Strategy is shown in the table below.

Core Strategy Production Process	Timetable
Commencement	*March 2006*
Issues and Options Consultation	*June – Sept 2006*
Preferred Options Consultation	*Sept – Nov 2009*
Publication	November 2010
Submission to Secretary of State	February 2011
Pre-Hearing Meeting	April 2011
Hearing Session Opens	June 2011
Inspectors Binding Report	September 2011
Adoption	December 2011