



London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

Title and Purpose of Policy:

Title: NH Q67 Procedural Changes to Conservation Area Review Programme

This report seeks Cabinet to agree revised procedures in the review and designation of conservation areas in the borough. These changes relate to how proposals are reported to and adopted by Cabinet and the length of public consultation that takes place with key stakeholders. The proposed changes will allow the Council to fulfil its statutory duties whilst making the Conservation Area Programme run more efficiently and affording greater protection to the historic environment.

Officer Responsible:

Name: Matt Payne	Ext: 8106
Directorate: Public Realm	Department/Division: Planning Service/ Conservation, Urban Design & Sustainability Team

NB: This assessment must be reviewed and agreed by the relevant Assistant Director, who is responsible for ensuring it is made publicly available and is in line with guidance (staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments.htm).

Acting Head of Planning: Natalie Broughton

Date: 12 June 2020

Comment:

1. Please summarise the service, function, policy, initiative or saving.

Conservation Area designation, review and management is an important part of the planning process. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019, Conservation Areas are classed as heritage assets. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, LPAs should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Conservation Area Appraisals clearly set out the important qualities of the heritage asset and not only does this enable proper protection of those parts of the historic

environment that the community genuinely values, but it also provides clarity to developers as to where those heritage assets are located and, critically, what it is about them that is worth considering.

Under the revised procedures, proposals for conservation area will only be brought to Cabinet for designation, thereby making the programme run more efficiently.

2 Who are the main people that will be affected?

The key people who will be affected will be property owners/occupiers within the boundaries of future conservation area designations and reviews. These owners/occupiers will be consulted under the revised procedures and responses will be carefully considered and inform the final recommendations to Cabinet.

3 What research or consultation(s) have been carried out?

In line with best practice and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Council carries out public consultation with stakeholders as designations and reviews that have been adopted following public consultation carry greater weight on appeal.

All responses to public consultations are carefully considered and inform the final recommendations to Cabinet.

4 Equality Impacts

The following tables outline the main issues in planned consultation that may impact on each equalities strand.

4(a) What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

Positive Impact:

Overall

Residents and other key stakeholders affected by future conservation area designations and reviews will have equal opportunity to have their say through all methods of consultation. The proposals will not impact on any one equality group.

a) Age

The proposals do not discriminate against age.

b) Disability

The proposals do not impede the ability to require a property to be DDA compliant.

c) Gender The proposal does not discriminate against gender.	d) Race The proposal does not discriminate against race.
e) Religion/Belief The proposal does not discriminate against any one religious or belief group.	f) Sexual Orientation The proposal does not discriminate against sexual orientation.
g) Other groups None identified.	

4(b) What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

Negative Impact: Overall There are no identified negative impacts.	
a) Age None identified.	b) Disability None identified.
c) Gender None identified.	d) Race None identified.
e) Religion/Belief None identified.	f) Sexual Orientation None identified.
g) Other groups None identified.	

5. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning– specific actions to address equality and cohesion issues raised by this assessment

None identified.