

Initial equality impact assessment screening form

(As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')

This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

Directorate	Business and Environmental Services
Service area	Planning Services
Proposal being screened	Minerals and Waste Joint Plan
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Michelle Saunders/ Rob Smith
What are you proposing to do?	Prepare a statutory Minerals and Waste Local Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and relevant regulations, national policy and guidance.
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	Preparation of a new set of land use planning policy for minerals and waste development is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Minerals and Waste Joint Plan has been prepared in partnership with North York Moors National Park Authority and City of York Council. The Plan will replace policies in the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plans in the NYCC area. It will guide decisions on where, when and how future Minerals and Waste related development within the area will take place up to 31 December 2030. The Plan sets out the framework for monitoring of the effectiveness of the policies, with built in trigger point for review. The desired outcome of the process is a new policy framework for minerals and waste which balances the benefits of minerals and waste development with other environmental, social and economic factors to help deliver sustainable development.
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No Whilst preparation of the Plan itself requires resources, implementation of the Plan is not expected to lead to any significant commitment or removal of resources. North Yorkshire County Council, the City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority have a statutory duty to provide a planning service for applications relating to Minerals and Waste. Whilst implementation of the Plan may lead to new investment this will be developer, rather than local authority, led, with the authorities implementing it in a regulatory role.

Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC’s additional agreed characteristics?

As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:

- To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?
- Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?
- Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?

If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked ‘Don’t know/no info available’, then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your [Equality rep](#) for advice if you are in any doubt.

Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Don’t know/No info available
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex (Gender)		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
NYCC additional characteristic			
People in rural areas		X	See note at end of screening assessment
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people’s access to public transport)? Please give details.	The Geographical scope of the Plan is such that it comprises the whole of North Yorkshire (excluding the Yorkshire Dales) and the City of York. However, taking into account the matters addressed by the Plan and bearing in mind that the policies in the Plan give specific protection to local communities from adverse impacts of minerals and waste development, wherever it may be proposed across the Plan area, it is not considered that its implementation would give rise to any differential impact on areas of known inequalities or other foreseeable impacts..		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No. The focus of the Plan is on the use and development of the land for minerals and waste purposes. The key purpose of the Plan is to help the Authorities take decisions on relevant planning applications. As such its prime purpose is to support a regulatory process undertaken by the three Authorities in their capacity as minerals and waste planning authorities. Whilst this process is undertaken in consultation with other relevant		

	bodies, for example the Environment Agency and the relevant District/Borough Council, it is not intended, or likely, to have any significant influence on how those organisations operate or are funded. Development brought forward as a result of implementation of the Plan is expected to be led by the private sector.			
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	X	Continue to full EIA:	
Reason for decision	The screening process has led to the conclusion that the Minerals and Waste Plan will not have likely significant impacts upon the identified characteristics.			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)				
Date				

Note on potential for impact on people in rural areas.

For the purposes of screening, consideration has been given as to whether the Plan could give rise to significant adverse impact on people in rural areas, as set out below.

The Plan puts in place a supportive policy framework for the maintenance of supply of minerals within the area. Minerals resources can only be worked where they are found in economically viable configurations, and where other factors, such as adequate access or other environmental constraints, allow. As a result, mineral working is likely to take place in rural areas and the Plan identifies a number of sites which are considered suitable in principle for future working, and which are located in rural areas. Whilst this could lead to potential for some adverse impacts on the environment and local amenity in rural areas, and hence impact on people in rural areas, minerals development can also provide local employment and make a positive contribution to the local economy, including through related supply chains and therefore help further social and economic objectives in rural areas. Furthermore, the Plan contains a number of policies which are specifically aimed at managing and controlling development to ensure that unacceptable impact does not occur. This includes seeking to protect local communities, businesses and other important receptors from the adverse effects of minerals (and waste) development, whether they be located in rural or urban areas.

Taking this into account, it is not considered that Plan will give rise to a significant adverse impact on people in rural areas. It is further considered that, when viewed against a 'no plan' scenario, implementation of the Plan would be likely to reduce the overall potential for adverse impact on rural communities as in this alternative scenario development proposals would be likely to continue to come forward but an up to date policy framework for control would not be in place.

The Plan also supports the provision of waste infrastructure to help manage waste arising in the Plan area. The overall approach in the Plan is to encourage waste development in locations near where waste arises. This is principally in the more urban parts of the area. The Plan acknowledges that provision of new waste infrastructure in rural areas may also be appropriate, including to deal with waste arising in such areas and in line with the national policy objective to encourage community responsibility for the management of waste, as well as to help minimise the overall need to transport waste, which could itself give rise to adverse impact on people in rural areas.

As for minerals the Plan contains a number of policies which are specifically aimed at managing and controlling development to ensure that unacceptable impact does not occur. This includes seeking to protect local communities, businesses and other important receptors from the adverse effects of waste development, whether they be located in rural or urban areas.

Where specific sites for future development in rural areas are identified in the Plan these have been identified through a site selection process including sustainability appraisal which has considered proposals against a range of environmental, social and economic objectives.

Taking the above matters in to account, it is concluded that the Plan is unlikely to give rise to unacceptable impact on rural communities.