COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(incorporating equality analysis and health considerations)

V1.0

Name of Matter Assessed	The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
Who will make decision: (**eg Cabinet / Board / Delegated etc**)	The constitution of each of the respective Local Planning Authorities adopting the SPD sets out who has the Executive authority to adopt the SPD.
Who has been involved in developing this matter	A steering group led by Nature Improvement Area Officer and including the Local Planning Authorities to which this work applies has prepared a "Biodiversity draft Supplementary Planning Document" (SPD).
Date	26th January 2015

What is it:

A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a document that summarises how the council has had due regard to the public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010) in decision-making. This document can also be used to consider health and narrowing heath inequalities (Health and Care Act 2012)

When to assess:

A CIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy or function. The assessment should be proportionate; a major financial decision will need to be assessed more closely than a minor policy change.

Due Regard:

To 'have due regard' means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities the council must consciously consider the need to do the things set out in the general equality duty: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

In relation to health, we need to consider the potential short term and long term implication of for decisions that we take to support the Health and Wellbeing agendas.

How much regard is 'due' will depend on the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the aims in the general equality duty to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard required by the duty. We need to make sure that we understand the potential impact of decisions on people with different protected characteristics and also need to consider this information before and as decisions are being made. This will help us to reduce or remove unhelpful impacts and inequalities.

PROPOSAL NAME:

The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document

1. AIMS / OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE POLICY / SERVICE / FUNCTION

Aims and Objectives:

Produced to help Local Planning Authorities, developers and others to ensure that development meets legislative and policy requirements and best practice standards are achieved. It supports a standardised approach all applicants should follow.

Key Actions:

Setting up an Officer Working Group to aid the progression of the consultation draft

Public wide consultation will be undertaken for 6 weeks, in line with the requirements of the Planning Act and associated regulations.

Expected Outcomes:

Consultation responses will inform the outcome of the final document, which will be considered by the respective local planning authorities for adoption.

Who will be affected and how:

Those seeking to undertake development will be more aware about what they need to do when applying for planning permission. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) should save the developer time and money by ensuring that the proposed development has addressed bio-diversity issues in an appropriate manner. The SPD seeks to ensure that the developer does not undertake abortive work by seeking to take forward a development that is unlikely to get planning permission, e.g. by not satisfactorily addressing issues such as nesting birds, or protected species. The SPD seeks to not only stop developers from undertaking measures that will adversely affect bio-diversity, but also where possible provide the opportunity for greater bio-diversity in a development early on in the process, for example through integrating drainage with potential to improve wildlife interest.

Approximately how many people will be affected:

This is difficult to quantify – in theory nearly all applications for development could incorporate measures that have the ability to take account of and improve its bio-diversity performance. This could well improve recreational activity/health and enhanced understanding of particular flora and fauna species and other environmental assets.

2. EXPECTED DATE OF DECISION

Adoption is anticipated mid to late 2015.

3. SCOPE / FOCUS OF THE ASSESSMENT

Please outline the scope and focus of the assessment

The scope and focus relates to the likely impacts on development and in particular those proposing development which ordinarily might be inconsistent with the additional restrictions/requirements associated with not adversely affecting bio-diversity, or by improving it.

4. COMMUNITY SCREENING OUTCOME

Will the proposal:	Yes	No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation		X
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it		X
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it		X
Contribute to health improvement or inequalities		X

5. RELEVANT DATA AND / OR RESEARCH

Outline the information and research that has informed the decision:

National Planning Policy Framework, West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Northampton Central Area Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and internal / external consultation exercises.

Sources and key findings:

The applicability of the SPD means that it essentially has the potential to be relevant to development throughout the area it covers and therefore is applicable to a wide mix of population, generally more representative of the demographic of the area as a whole.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics:

The assessors have considered the potential impacts of the SPD and having had extensive experience of considering potential impacts of planning documents on groups with protected characteristics are in this instance unable to determine any adverse or positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics. Whilst for instance improved interpretation of bio-diversity through provision of information boards associated with development proposals might well encourage greater understanding amongst younger people, this would also be open to older people too.

6. CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

What are you doing now:

The Local Planning Authorities consult with Natural England and others including the Wildlife Trust or local amenity groups, or internal expertise where they believe that development could either be in an ecologically sensitive area/affect a protected species, or where the opportunity for enhanced bio-diversity provision exists. Whilst this is helpful, on occasion it is considered that this might be relatively late in the development application process and not sufficiently factored into development proposals when they are submitted for determination. The SPD generally seeks to raise awareness of the potential to accommodate additional bio-diversity within development proposals thus improving outcomes and meeting wider sustainability objectives.

7. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

What will you do if / when changes are agreed / introduced:

See 6. The adoption of the SPD is considered likely to reduce abortive and potentially expensive work undertaken by a range of people and organisations in taking forward proposals that do not satisfactorily address the issues.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED GROUPS / INDIVIDUALS

List the groups / individuals that may be affected by the proposal:

Developers, or those that may occupy new developments where measures have been incorporated to ensure that bio-diversity is not compromised, or indeed has been impacted upon positively. This may include residents, employees or those pursuing recreational activities.

9. ACCESS AND / OR UNDERTAKE CONSULTATION

Has there been specific consultation (if not, state why and / or when this may happen):

To be undertaken as part of the wider consultation.

What were the results of the consultation:

Not yet available

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal:

Not yet available

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics:

Not yet available

10: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON STAFF

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if / as appropriate:

Planning Departments are generally considered to be representative in their makeup of the wider community of which they serve, with the probable exception of ethnicity, religious groups and disability.

The SPD is likely to reduce resource spent in the Planning Division on abortive work seeking to amend schemes which otherwise would adversely impact on bio-diversity, but otherwise is not considered likely to impact on any particular group within the workforce more than any other.

11. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON WIDER COMMUNITY

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

- Seeking to address bio-diversity issues could increase development costs if not considered appropriately – however, the SPD seeks to overcome this.
- On the positive side it provides the opportunity for the local community to gain access to and a greater understanding of bio-diversity – this will help improve education and people's interaction with their local environment.

12. ANALYSIS OF IMPACT BY PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Please summarise the results of the analysis

To be undertaken

13: ASSESS THE RELEVANCE AND IMPACT OF THE DECISION TO PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Relevance: select high, medium or low
Impact: select positive, negative or neutral

	Relevance	Impact
Age	Low	Neutral
Disability	Low	Neutral
Gender reassignment	Low	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Low	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	Low	Neutral
Race	Low	Neutral
Religion or belief	Low	Neutral
Sex	Low	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Low	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (including health inequalities)	Low	Neutral

*When assessing relevance and impact, make it clear who the assessment applies to within the protected characteristic category. For example, a decision may have high relevance for young people but low relevance for older people; it may have a positive impact on women but a neutral impact on men.

14. MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACT ON STAFF / SERVICE / PEOPLE

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures to mitigate against it:

Not applicable

15. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The findings of the consultation exercise will be documented in the Consultation Statement, reported to the respective Council's decision makers and subsequently posted on the website.

16. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring will be done by assessing the outcome of planning appeals based on the requirements of this SPD

17. CONCLUSION

There should be no unlawful discrimination arising from the decision

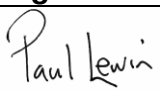
Please state how due regard has been taken to the equality duty, and public health considerations:

The principles formulated are details which are based on strategic and local policies which have themselves undergone Equality Impact Assessments

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

It is not considered that there will be any adverse or beneficial impacts that will be more concentrated in any particular group with protected characteristics.

Signed:



Date: 26th January 2015