

Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement

Equality Impact Assessment

Title of Report	Adoption of the Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement
What is the report trying to achieve?	This report seeks an Executive recommendation to Council to adopt the Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement. The Statement of Community involvement sets out how the Council will engage with communities and stakeholders (including specific and general consultation bodies) in the planning process and ensure consultations are effective, inclusive and accessible for everyone.
What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.	Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report
Service Area	Planning and Development
Corporate Manger	James Fairclough
Links to supporting documents where available	Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report.
What is proposed?	Following public consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement, amendments have been made and Executive is asked to review the revised Statement of Community Involvement and consider recommending to Council its adoption.
Why are the changes being introduced?	The Statement of Community Involvement should be reviewed at regular intervals and should be updated in whole or in part at least every five years.
What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?	Evidence from the Equality Impact Assessment of the adopted Local Plan 2022 and demographic data from the Suffolk Observatory.
How will this change be implemented?	The change will be implemented through the adoption of the Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement.
Is there potential for positive or negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics below?	
Age	No impact - A key means of consulting those on the local plan database will be via email, rather than letter. Based on digital capabilities the age group in which a higher percentage of people (52%) do not have basic digital skills is the 65 plus age group. In Ipswich, this age group accounts for 16.5% of the population. For those who are

	not digitally enabled, the Council will continue to use other forms of communication such as making documents available at the County Library and the Council's offices at Grafton House, publicity through the local press, along with local meetings and forums, where appropriate.
Disability	No impact - In order to ensure those with physical disabilities are not denied access to public consultation events, the Council will seek to hold meetings in places that are accessible to those who have mobility issues, where possible. In addition, we will make documents and information available at a wide variety of locations and utilise disability networks/ organisation from the consultation database to promote information.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Race	It is recognised that there may be challenges in engaging all racial groups due to language barriers, or cultural differences. To address this, the Local Plan consultation database includes contact details for a range of different racial groups who will be notified of any consultations.
Pregnancy & Maternity	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Religion or Belief	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Gender reassignment	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Sex	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Sexual orientation	The Ipswich Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.
Does the report meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives?	I can confirm that the report meets Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives.
The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):	The Statement of Community Involvement aims to remove barriers to participation in the planning process. Where barriers to

	<p>participation have been identified, the Council has sought to put measures in place to negate any direct negative impacts.</p> <p>As stated above, the Council is moving towards greater reliance on electronic means of communication/consultation. Research indicates that those aged 65 plus are less likely to be computer literate, which may impede their ability to participate in the planning process. To guard against this, the council will continue to use other methods of consultation such as making documents available in public libraries, publicity through the local press, along with local meetings and forums, where appropriate.</p> <p>It is recognised that there may be challenges in engaging all racial groups due to language barriers, or cultural differences. To address this, the local plan consultation database includes contact details for a range of different racial groups who will be notified of any consultations. In order to ensure those with physical disabilities are not denied access to public consultation events, the Council will seek to hold meetings in places that are accessible to those who have mobility issues, where possible. In addition, we will make documents and information available at a wide variety of locations and utilise disability networks/organisation from the consultation database to promote information.</p>
<p>The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):</p>	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement promotes the use of multiple forms of communication in order to reach local people, local businesses and other key organisations and stakeholders. In order to advance equality of opportunity for young adults the Council will continue to use social media as a means of involving the community in planning policy. Research suggests that young adults are difficult/reluctant to engage in the planning process. Social media is a popular means of interaction for young adults and the Council is committed to the use of online platforms to engage younger people on planning matters, as a means of enhancing equality of opportunity.</p>
<p>The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):</p>	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement helps to foster good relations by ensuring</p>

	<p>that the Council is open about how it will engage with the community in the delivery of its planning function, thus removing barriers to participation in the planning process.</p>
<p>The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s):</p>	<p>The Statement of Community Involvement is reviewed every five years or sooner to reflect any changes to engagement. It is important that Statements of Community Involvement is kept up-to-date to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process. The Council's planning consultation database of individuals and organisations that have an interest in planning matters is also regularly reviewed so that stakeholders are aware of opportunities to participate in the planning process. Anyone can be added to this database subject to written consent and can be removed upon request.</p>