



# **Residential Design Guidance**

**Final Report**

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)  
Initial Screening**

**November 2012**

This Council carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the Residential Design Guidance (RDG) in May 2012, to screen the proposed policies for their positive and negative equality impacts. The draft document is attached at Appendix 1.

The draft document was subject to consultation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012. No responses were received in respect of the draft EqIA. However responses were received on the RDG document itself.

The RDG sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.

As a result of the screening there were no negative equality impacts arising from the draft EqIA.

The RDG has been amended to take account of the comments received in respect of the RDG, as well as the mitigation measures set out in the draft SA.

The amendments are not significant and do not raise any further equality implications.



## **Residential Design Guidance**

### **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Initial Screening**

**May 2012**

## Strategy and Policy EqIA

All strategies and policies must be initially screened for their positive and negative equality impacts.

This initial screening will determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full EqIA for the strategy or policy.

This template has been designed to help you initially screen your strategy or policy and, if necessary, undertake a full EqIA .

<b>Title of strategy or policy:</b>	Residential Design Guidance
<b>Person undertaking EqIA:</b>	Anne Harrison
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Steve Rogers
<b>Department:</b>	Regeneration and Neighbourhoods – Planning Policy
<b>Date Draft EqIA completed:</b>	May 2011

## Strategy and policy overview

Strategy and policy overview	
What is the strategy or policy intending to achieve?	The Residential Design Guidance sets out policies for achieving high quality residential development throughout the Borough.
What are the summary aims and objectives of the strategy or policy?	<p>The Residential Design Guidance seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide advice on the design of residential development, both in respect of new build development and extensions or alterations to residential properties</li> <li>• incorporate design principles into the development process</li> <li>• provide a flexible and proportionate approach to design</li> </ul> <p>The specific details contained in the Guidance build on how high quality design can be achieved.</p>
Who will benefit from implementing the strategy or policy?	It is intended that the Residential Design Guidance will benefit the whole community, including local residents and landowners in the Borough.
What are the links to the Council's corporate priorities?	The Residential Design Guidance links explicitly to the Council's priority of Regeneration and Homes, by aiming to deliver good quality, safe and energy efficient homes throughout the Borough, and Environment – Civic Pride, by limiting negative impacts on the environment and improving and making use of any positive impacts in the environmental quality of the Borough.

<p>What are the links to other Council strategies and policies?</p>	<p>The Residential Design Guidance links explicitly to policies in the Council's existing Adopted Local Plan, which seeks a high standard of design in relation to new buildings and extensions and alterations to existing buildings. It will also link to policies in the Council's New Local Plan.</p> <p>The Residential Design Guidance links to the Council's Housing Strategy, which is in the process of being prepared. The delivery of high quality design will be essential when the Strategy requires new homes, the redevelopment of existing properties, or homes to be designed in a certain way.</p> <p>The Residential Design Guidance links to the Council's Asset Management Plan, which includes land owned by the Council. The delivery of high quality design will be essential if land is redeveloped to contribute better to the community.</p>
<p>What are the links to other community strategies and policies?</p>	<p>The Residential Design Guidance links to the borough's Regeneration Framework, prepared by the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership. The delivery of high quality design will work towards the Framework's vision for Castle Point – "A community where everyone can prosper, be safe and live in a high quality environment".</p> <p>The Residential Design Guidance links to the borough's Community Strategy, which is prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership. The provision of high quality development can help to secure some of the ambitions in this plan, such as making our environment greener and cleaner, regenerating our local economy and places and meeting housing needs.</p> <p>The Residential Design Guidance links directly to the Essex Vehicle Parking Standards. The design of parking provision is an integral part of ensuring high quality design of development.</p> <p>The Residential Design Guidance links directly to the Castel Point Community Safety Partnership Plan, which sets out what needs to be done to reduce the levels of crime</p>

	and anti-social behaviour in Castle Point, and to reduce the fear of crime. The Residential Design Guidance can ensure new places are well designed to deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, and to make people feel safer.
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# Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 introduces 2 specific statutory duties on public bodies such as local authorities:

- **Socio-economic duty:**
  - Have due regard when making strategic decisions to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage
- **Single (integrated) equality duty:**
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation or any other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not

The Equality Act 2010 brings together all of the different equality strands and refers to them as “**protected characteristics**”:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation



## Initial screening

This initial screening template will determine whether or not the strategy or policy requires a full EqIA

If any of the answers to the 6 screening questions is “yes”, then a full EqIA will be required.

Initial screening		
Does the strategy or policy aim to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?	No	The Residential Design Guidance sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
Does the strategy or policy aim to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation?	No	The Residential Design Guidance makes no reference to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation. However, it does not seek to promote such acts either.
Does the strategy or policy aim to advance equality of opportunity?	No	The Residential Design Guidance sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
Does the strategy or policy aim to foster good community relations?	No	The Residential Design Guidance sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.

Initial screening		
Does the strategy or policy have the potential to make a negative contribution to equality?	No	The Residential Design Guidance sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
Does the strategy or policy make a positive contribution to equality?	No	The Residential Design Guidance sets out detailed guidance on specific forms of residential development. This guidance is equally relevant and applicable to the population of Castle Point who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
<b>Initial screening outcome</b>	<b>A full EqIA is not required for the Residential Design Guidance.</b>	