

Equality Impact Assessment EqIA Template



You must consider the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) when completing this template.

The EDI team can provide help and advice on undertaking an EqIA and also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EqIA documents.

EDI team contact email: edi_team@sandwell.gov.uk

Quality Control	
Title of proposal	Installation of nuisance bike inhibitors and disruptors in Friar Park
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy – Community Safety
Officer completing EqIA	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety
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Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	Denise Hooper Community Safety Manager Andrew Clarke ASB Team Manager Nicola Plant - Assistant Director Public Protection & Community Safety
Date EqIA completed	8 th February 2024
Date EqIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqIA	
Date EqIA considered by Cabinet	WLUP Board 29/02/24

Where the EqlA is Published (please include a link to the EqlA and send a copy of the final EqlA to the EDI team)	Mod Gov – WLUP Board 29/02/24
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Section 1.

The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

The [Levelling Up White Paper](#) set out an ambition to develop policy in a different way, focussed on understanding the needs and opportunities for specific places and then seeking to develop tailored solutions where possible. The Levelling Up Partnerships programme was set up to deliver a tailored approach to place-based working, by working with key partners in local areas to understand the challenges and opportunities the place faces and then to identify practical actions to bring about change.

As part of the Spring Budget on 15th March 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made several new announcements that are intended to benefit local government and local communities as part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. This includes the development of 20 Levelling Up Partnerships around England. Wednesbury has been identified as one of these areas and £22.5 m has been awarded to the town for specific projects. £0.5m has been identified for enhancing community safety and perceptions of safety within the local area. Utilising local crime data, information from WMP, Tasking, reporting concerns from local communities and SMBCs CCTV Control Room, one of the 3 elements of this work is to install new nuisance bike inhibitors and disruptors in Friar Park which is the area in the Borough which sees the most reports for this anti-social behaviour.

Section 2.

Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

Sandwell Borough Information

West Midlands Police Information

SMBC ASB data

Community Safety Survey 2023

POPULATION



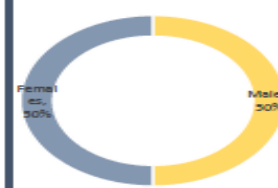
POPULATION

329,049

The latest available ONS Mid-Year estimates provide a figure of 329,042 for Sandwell.

Since 2014, the population has grown by 12,753 residents, equating to an increase of 4%.

The latest population projection gives an estimate of an increase to 347,891 by 2030; an increase of 18,849 (+6%).



GENDER

There is even split between males and females



BAME

34%

The 2011 census data shows that 34% of the population in Sandwell are from a BAME background, however the rate is now likely to be higher.

MEDIAN AGE

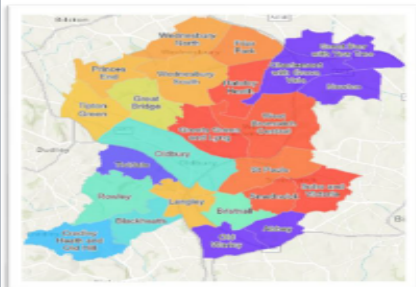
37

The median age of 37 in Sandwell is lower than that across England and Wales (40).

There are variances between the wards. For example, 46% of the population in Newton are over the age of 45 compared to 27% in Soho and Victoria. The age profile of the wards will have a bearing on the prevalence of substance misuse.

DEPRIVATION

34%



The average deprivation score for Sandwell makes it the 12th most deprived local authority in England.

Deprivation varies greatly between the wards.

There is a significant link between deprivation and substance misuse.

While Sandwell has considerable data regarding the population, data in relation to those who have been engaged with nuisance bikes is limited.

3. Consultation

ASB related to nuisance bikes is the highest reported ASB category in Wednesbury particularly in Friar Park. 201 Wednesbury nuisance bike incidents were reported to SMBC between April – September 2023, with 176 of these in Friar Park. During the same period 38 incidents were reported to WMP. This is clearly an area of concern for residents.

Nuisance bikes were raised by residents during the 2023 Safer 6 annual community safety campaign and in the 2023 Community Safety Survey which say this issue highlighted as the 3rd highest priority by those who completed the survey. Wednesbury members have also consistently raised constituent concerns in relation to these issues. Some work on Crankhill Lane and Friar Park Road was

undertaken last year to disrupt nuisance bikes following these reports but much more work is required. The Levelling Up funding is providing an opportunity to undertake a strategic review of green spaces in Wednesbury and put in place a joined up and holistic set of measures to disrupt this behaviour. It is recognised that areas cannot be closed off and need to enable access for all. As such any restrictions need to accommodate those with disabilities and children. However fencing and restrictors can and does restrict these behaviours.

Consultation has also been undertaken with the WMP Design Out Crime Officer on the proposals and a multi-agency task and finish group has been put together to oversee the commissioning and installation. A Business and Community Engagement Officer has also been appointed to ensure ongoing dialogue with local residents throughout the project and to help manage expectations.

Nuisance bikes are clearly a major issue of concern for residents in Wednesbury. These proposals demonstrate the council's commitment to listening to its residents, partners and communities and to take action to address issues that are important to them.

The proposals are also supported by Sandwell's multi-agency Borough Tasking partnership and align with the objectives of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Boards objective of reducing crime and ASB.

Section 4.

Summary assessment of the analysis at section 4a and the likely impact on each of the protected characteristics (if any)

There is no evidence or suggestion that this action would impact more negatively on any specific protected characteristic. All inhibitors / restrictors will be DDA compliant and a number of K gates have already been installed across the Borough. These allow access for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs and prams.

There is limited information on these characteristics currently that can feed into this assessment. The outcome is to enhance community safety across the Borough.

Section 4a - What are the potential/actual impacts of the proposal on the protected characteristics?

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Age	Ne	There is no evidence that the action being planned will impact upon more negatively on any age group over and above another.		
Disability	Ne	There is no evidence or suggestion that this action would impact more negatively on any specific protected characteristic. All inhibitors / restrictors will be DDA compliant and a number of K gates have already been installed across the Borough. These allow access for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs and prams.		
Gender Reassignment	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
		impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Marriage and civil partnership	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Pregnancy and maternity	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals. Restrictors will still enable access with prams / pushchairs.		
Race	Ne	There is no information to indicate this protected characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Religion or belief	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Sex	Ne	There is no information to indicate this group would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
Sexual Orientation	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Could other socio-economic groups be affected?				
Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community Other		Sandwell is the 12 th most deprived area in England. There is no indication that any specific group would be impacted upon more than another.		

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then please move to Sections 6.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

Impact and monitoring will be overseen through tasking. Information will be regularly shared with the partnership group and the project will report via Tasking and through the Levelling Up Partnership Board. No adverse impacts are anticipated.

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

Moving forward:

- Better data relating to those engaged with this activity / receiving enforcement requirements and shared through Borough Tasking

7. Monitoring arrangements

Impact will be reviewed at Town and Borough Tasking meetings and feed into the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board

Section 8 Action planning (if required)

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

If you have any suggestions for improving this process, please contact EDI_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk