

Equality Impact Assessments Toolkit

EqlA 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	Wednesbury Public Realm and Urban Greening
Directorate and Service Area	Regeneration and Growth
Officer completing EqIA	Clinton Felicio – Senior Planner
Contact Details	clinton_felicio@sandwell.gov.uk
Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	N/A
Date EqIA completed	15.03.2024
Date EqIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	09.04.2024
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqIA	Tammy Stokes
Date EqIA considered by Cabinet	To be considered by Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board on 09.04.2024
Where the EqIA is Published (please include a link to the EqIA and send a copy of the final EqIA to the EDI team)	This EqIA will be published as part of the papers for the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board. These will be published on sandwell.moderngov.co.uk

Section 1.

The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

The project is funded via the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership (WLUP) which is a unique relationship between government and Sandwell Council to bring forward targeted interventions designed to support priority places to 'level up' and to help government develop a more holistic understanding of place. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in priority areas, and via a partnership approach harness collective powers to tackle the most pressing issues.

As part of the Wednesbury Town Centre Improvements project, funding has been provided for a masterplan for the area, to improve derelict sites and for public realm and urban greening improvements. The emerging Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan places will provide a public realm and urban greening strategy and places an emphasis on providing green routes through the town centre improving the link from the Wednesbury Great Western Street metro stop from Victoria Street to the town centre, and further key pedestrian and cycling routes.

The WLUP will provide funding for short term proposals to improve the safety and appearance of the town centre focusing on the key areas below:

Wednesbury Great Western Street Tram Stop/ Victoria Street – proposals aim to improve the visibility of the tram from the town centre and the arrival experience of passengers. Proposals include a new arrival space with seating outside the tram stop, improved lighting and planting, and wayfinding signage

Holyhead Rd/ Victoria Street junction – new tree planting, improve crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, new benches and bins

The public square adjacent to Morrisons, Wednesbury bus station and Union Street – this space will be reimaged to provide a more welcoming space with more seating and greenery

Union Street – repaving with a brighter colour pallet, new seating and planting for places to meet, sit and rest

Section 2.

Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

This project was identified during an initial deep dive activity which included joint exploration between the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Sandwell Council Cabinet Members.

A full business case has been developed for the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership and utilised an analytical snapshot from DLUHC which considered demographics, deprivation, place base policy. An assessment against the 'levelling up missions' and the six capitals – physical, human, intangible, financial and social was also completed.

Section 3.

Consultation

Engagement Survey November 2023

An engagement survey was undertaken in November 2023 to understand the public's view on how they feel about the town centre and how they feel it could be improved. The main responses stated that people enjoy visiting the library and the sense of the community of the town, but it could be improved through a better variety of shops and market on offer, free parking, improved green spaces and seating. Responses also highlighted that while people generally visit and feel safe in the town centre in the day, they don't in the evening.

These comments were taken into consideration when designing the proposals in preparation for the public consultation in 2024. For example, improved street lighting to address perception of safety in the evening and travelling to and from the tram at Victoria Street, more greening and benches to improve the appearance of the town centre to allow more people to sit, talk and continue the community people stated they enjoy about the town.

Public Consultation January – March 2024

A public consultation for the public realm and urban greening proposals was took place from 29 January 2024 to 11 March 2024. Feedback from this consultation has been used to assist the formation of the final design and implementation of the improvements.

Section 4.

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

We have assessed that there will be no adverse impact on people with protected characteristics as an outcome of these proposals.

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	P	<p>The new public realm will cater for all age groups, there is no definition on age and who can utilise new spaces.</p> <p>New seating will encourage the public to sit and rest increasing social interaction and community engagement. The consultation responses advised that seating should have handles to ensure all users can safely get off the seats, this has been incorporated into the final design. Seating is particularly beneficial for families as space for children to rest will be provided and for older individuals to foster a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation.</p> <p>Improved lighting, clear wayfinding signage and well-maintained paths will enhance safety, address concerns related to potential hazards and ensuring a secure environment for individuals of all ages.</p>		

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
		A negative impact may be seen through perceptions, through the engagement we've seen that some members of the elderly population have an issue with younger members of society "hanging around". We will mitigate this by creating intergenerational spaces that will be appealing to all ages.		
Disability	P	Any public realm which we are creating will be fully inclusive to cater for physical disabilities. Sandwell Council's Access Officer and Sandwell Visually Impaired have inputted into the proposals. The council design team and contractor will continue to work with stakeholders during the works to ensure works are inclusive.		
Gender Reassignment	Ne	N/A		
Marriage and civil partnership	Ne	N/A		

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
Pregnancy and maternity	Ne	N/A		
Race	Ne	N/A		
Religion or belief	Ne	N/A		
Sex	Ne	N/A		
Sexual Orientation	Ne	N/A		
Could other socio-economic groups be affected?				
Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed	Ne			

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
Forces Community Other				

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?

No adverse impacts have been identified

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

No further actions required other than a monitoring of impacts

7. Monitoring arrangements

The project will be monitored through the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board.

The equality impact analysis and assessment will be updated at appropriate stages of the proposal development to consider new evidence and then to identify and address any equality effects as they arise during the scheme construction and operation

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