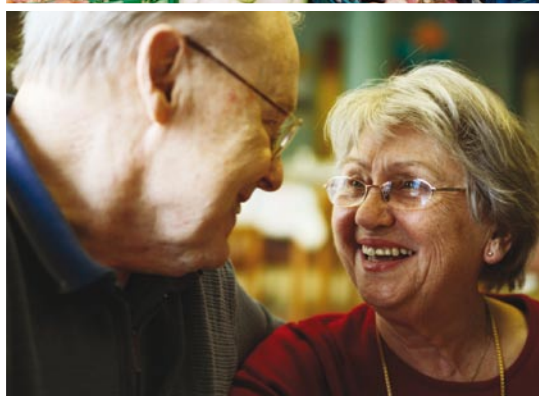


Equalities Impact Assessment

Core Strategy options report

February 2009

Copy for public consultation



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1. Introduction

1.1 What is an Equalities Impact Assessment?

- 1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment or EIA is the process of systematically analysing a proposed or existing policy or strategy to identify what effect, or likely affect will follow from the implementation of the policy for different groups in the community. Similarly it can be the process for analysing the impact of the delivery of a service or function on different groups in the community.
- 1.2 Equality Impact Assessments are concerned with anticipating and identifying the equality consequences of particular policy initiatives and service delivery and ensuring that, as far as possible, any negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community are eliminated, minimised or counterbalanced by other measures.

2. Management of the Equalities Impact Assessment

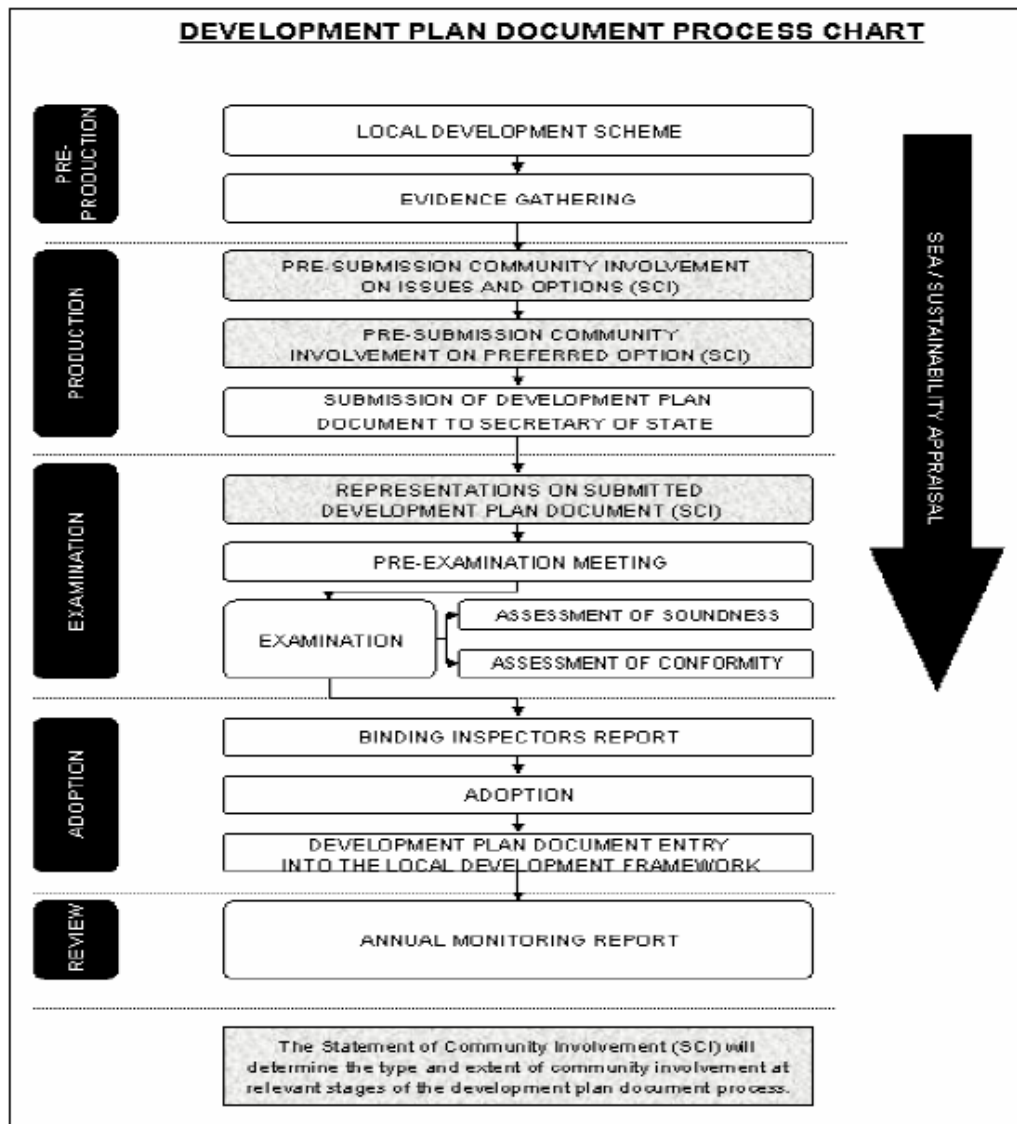
- 2.1 The assessment was undertaken by the Planning Policy Team in the Planning Service of the Regeneration Directorate, by Rosemary Duckworth Senior Policy Planner and Wilma Daniel, Policy Planner and will be evaluated by the Corporate Equalities Team. After public and stakeholder consultation the Equalities Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

3. Assessment aims and objectives

- 3.1 The objective of the Equalities Impact Assessment will be to gauge the impact on equalities groups of the suite of broad policy options presented in the Core Strategy Options Report, which will guide and promote the physical regeneration of the borough, provide affordable housing, promote regeneration of town centres and the provision of new employment space, protect open space, and provide community facilities in appropriate locations.
- 3.2 The Core Strategy will, when adopted by the Council, be the main overarching planning policy document for the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a suite of documents that aims to deliver specific things such as homes, jobs, transport, parks, schools and other public services, in the most appropriate and accessible locations, over the next 15 years to 2025. It provides the legal framework for the granting or refusal of planning permission, and sets out policies for the location and amount of new built development that will deliver the objectives of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy – Shaping Our Future, 2008-2020.
- 3.3 The Core Strategy Options Report is early stage of preparation of the Core Strategy and presents policy options for public consultation. Diagram 1 shows the stages of preparation of the documents that form part of the LDF. The Core Strategy is at an early stage called 'Pre submission Community Involvement on Issues and Options'.
- 3.4 This assessment considers the following six areas or strands that are central to the equalities agenda.

- Gender
- Race and Ethnicity
- Disability
- Age
- Sexual Orientation and
- Religion and Belief systems

Diagram 1 Stages in the Preparation of the Core Strategy



4. Scope/focus of the Equality Impact Assessment and assessment of relevance

4.1 The table below sets out the initial assessment of the relevance of equalities issues to the Core Strategy and its potential impact on different groups within society. This is the start of scoping the impact assessment and follows the guidance contained in the London Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance Document 'Planning for Equality and Diversity in London' (October 2007) in order to determine the answer to the two key questions.

- Could these policies affect some groups in society differently?
- Will these policies and the way they are implemented promote equal opportunities?

Lewisham Core Strategy Options Report Equality Impact Assessment scoping			
Equalities category	Equalities legislation	Assessment of potential impact- high, medium, low or no impact	Reason for this assessment
Gender	Sex Discrimination Act Equal Pay Act	High	<p>Many women in order to balance work and domestic responsibilities need access to employment and training closer to home with access to affordable childcare. Many women make local journeys and need convenient, affordable and safe public transport, safe and accessible walking routes and easy access to local services. Women are more likely to live in social housing due to lower wages and higher levels of part-time employment which may mean a reduction in the choice and quality in housing accessible to them. There are concerns about crime and personal safety at night, in the public realm, and alone on public transport.</p> <p>Core Strategy Options likely to be relevant to this group are policies for the provision of housing, access to local employment opportunities, good public transport, the provision of community facilities, and the design of the public realm to reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p>

Lewisham Core Strategy Options Report Equality Impact Assessment scoping

Equalities category	Equalities legislation	Assessment of potential impact- high, medium, low or no impact	Reason for this assessment
Race	Race Relations Act Race Relations (Amendment) Act	High	<p>Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups tend to live in deprived areas with poor access to social facilities access to and lack private transport. Many BME groups experience discrimination in the labour market especially young black men and so lack access to employment. Many BME families experience overcrowding and poor housing conditions due to cost of housing and family size. There are concerns about fear of crime, abuse and personal safety. Relevant policies for this group will include housing provision, access to employment and training, the provision of community facilities, and the design of the public realm to reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>In respect of gypsies and travellers there is a lack of permanent sites in London and they are often located poorly and so barriers to education, employment and access to social and health facilities are experienced. There is a government requirement to include policies in the Core Strategy for the provision of sites.</p>
Disability	Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA)	High	<p>Disabled people are more likely to experience worklessness and live in unsuitable and inaccessible housing, due to shortages of suitable housing and, despite improvements, difficulties with public transport. Training and education facilities may be inaccessible.</p> <p>Policy options relevant to these groups will be the provision of appropriate and accessible housing, public transport, and access to employment and training opportunities, and to community facilities.</p>

Lewisham Core Strategy Options Report Equality Impact Assessment scoping

Equalities category	Equalities legislation	Assessment of potential impact- high, medium, low or no impact	Reason for this assessment
Age	<p>Relevant employment legislation</p> <p>Disability Discrimination Act</p>	High	<p>Children and young people may experience poverty and social exclusion due to high levels of worklessness in deprived areas, and as a result live in poor quality housing, with a lack of access to play facilities and open space. They may be vulnerable to crime, and accidents on the street and need safe public transport.</p> <p>Policy options relevant to children and young people are the provision of housing, including affordable housing and housing mix for family accommodation, access to employment for parents to reduce deprivation levels, availability of open space and play facilities, the quality of street design, safe and accessible public transport, and good design to reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>Older people are more likely to live in poverty and suffer low quality or inappropriate housing. They may be isolated and have security concerns both at home and on the street. They may experience discrimination in access to employment and in order to access facilities need cheap and safe public transport. Public realm accessibility is an issue as is a need for community facilities and/or meeting places to reduce isolation and vulnerability.</p> <p>Policy option relevant to older people include provision of housing designed to lifetimes homes standard, access to employment, quality of street design and the public realm designed to reduce the fear of crime, provision of community facilities, and safe and accessible public transport.</p>

Lewisham Core Strategy Options Report Equality Impact Assessment scoping			
Equalities category	Equalities legislation	Assessment of potential impact- high, medium, low or no impact	Reason for this assessment
Sexual orientation	Relevant employment legislation	Low	All improvements to infrastructure facilities, design, housing, natural and physical environment could have some impact on this group. There are specific issues such as concern for personal safety and fear of crime and harassment in the public realm. Most policies outlined above will have some impact on this group. The most relevant policy is good urban design to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
Religion and belief system	Relevant employment legislation	Medium	<p>Many faith groups may need appropriate housing due to family size. Access to places of worship and specialist community facilities is an issue for this group.</p> <p>Main policies relevant for this group are policy options to provide a mix including family sized housing, and the issue of the provision of buildings for faith groups (options for provision of community facilities), and public transport to access these buildings.</p>

5. Assess relevant data and research

- 5.1 A range of national, regional and local data was analysed and considered which resulted in the policy directions of the Core Strategy Options Report. This information is summarised below.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy is of relevance to the entire borough. However specific regeneration areas are identified, so the policy options will have different impacts on different parts of the borough, and on equalities groups who, as identified in the scoping section of the report above tend to live in areas with greater levels of deprivation.
- 5.3 The Core Strategy is required to be 'in general conformity' with the London Plan and National Planning Policy Guidance and Statements unless local circumstances dictate otherwise and evidence can be provided to this effect.

- 5.4 The requirements from the London Plan relevant to this Equalities Impact Assessment are summarised as follows:
- Opportunity areas for Deptford Creek and Lewisham-Catford-New Cross as a focus for housing and jobs
 - An annual housing target of 975 dwellings during the period 2007/08 to 2006/17 and an indicative capacity range of between 310 and 550 dwellings between 2017 and 2006/27
 - With the London town centre categorisations, Lewisham and Catford town centres are designated as major centres and Blackheath, Downham, Forest Hill, Lee Green, New Cross and Sydenham as district centres
 - Areas around the Surrey Canal Road and at Bromley Road are designated as Strategic Industrial Locations which provide land for uses such as waste transfer and processing, public utilities (e.g. bus garages), and industrial uses
 - Significant areas of the borough are identified as Metropolitan Open Land and with the 'Blue Ribbon Network' (Ravensbourne River).
- 5.5 The Council will additionally designate and protect areas of local significance such as, local shopping centres, local employment locations, areas of local open space and sites of nature conservation importance.
- 5.6 The Core Strategy Options Report proposes two main future scenarios for public consultation as to how the borough will accommodate the projected growth in population of the borough, and the forecasts made by the Greater London Authority for economic growth.

Strategic Spatial Option 1 seeks to ensure and support borough-wide regeneration growth. Essentially it goes beyond the requirements of the London Plan by designating a regeneration and growth corridor in the Deptford/New Cross area which is identified as an area suffering from significant social and physical deprivation. It allows the development of six major sites in this area, four of which are considered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to be Strategic Industrial Locations, as 'Mixed Use Employment Locations' which would replace the industrial floorspace with higher density business space designed to meet GLA employment growth projections. New housing, new community, leisure and small scale shopping facilities, improved urban and greener environments would also be provided in a better connected, well designed environment. It allows for housing numbers to go beyond the London Plan requirement to 21,650 new dwellings by 2025.

Strategic Spatial Option 2 proposes housing growth to meet London Plan targets (14,550 dwellings by 2025) and does not involve such extensive regeneration in the Deptford/New Cross area by proposing just one Mixed Use Employment Location in Deptford/Creekside. This results in the retention of all the traditional warehousing and industrial space around the Surrey Canal Road and at Oxestalls Road.

Both options propose the redevelopment of Convoys Wharf for a large mixed use development, the regeneration of Lewisham and Catford Town Centres and the Deptford Creekside Opportunity Area. Small town centres are designated as 'activity

hubs' and 'local hubs'. The character of the residential areas and Conservation Areas will be preserved. Bellingham and Downham wards are identified as being in the worst 10% wards in England according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Regeneration projects will continue estate renewal and build on existing projects such as the Downham Healthy Lifestyle Centre and Bellingham Sure Start programme.

Neighbourhood and local shopping centres and parades, along with a range of community and recreational facilities would be provided, retained and protected.

5.7 The Core Strategy Options Report also presents a set of 46 policy options around housing, employment land, open space, etc. These are listed and summarised in Appendix 1 to this report together with an assessment of their relevance to equalities issues in relation to each equalities group. Appendix 1 to this Report should therefore be read in conjunction with the research and demographic information presented below.

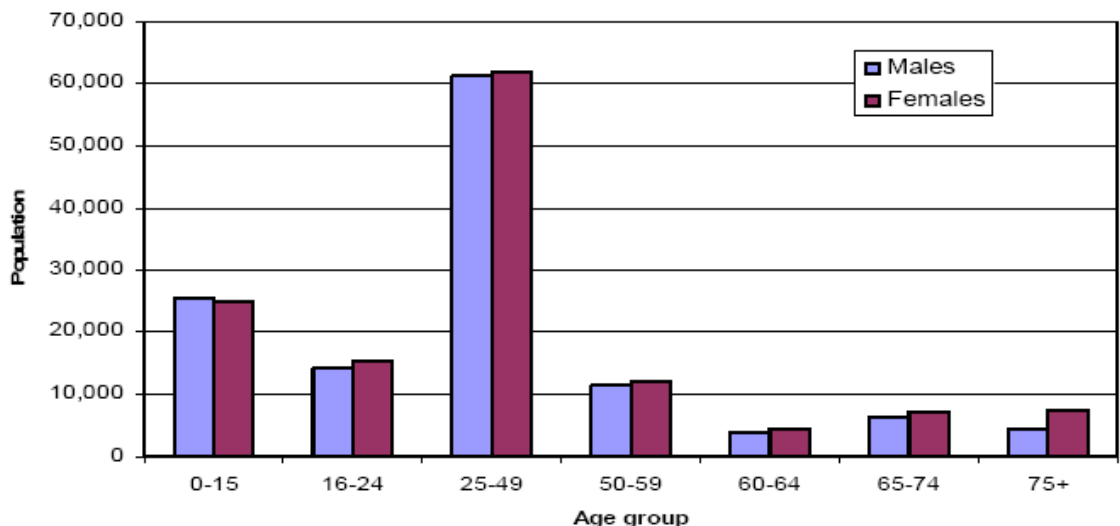
5.8 Population and Demographics

Mid Year Population estimates (ONS 2007) state that the borough is home to approximately 258,000 people and 113,000 dwellings. The population is expected to increase by approximately 25,000 people up to 2016. This would represent a 10% rise in 10 years. The borough is considered to be the 39th most deprived local authority area in England with pockets of deprivation in most areas but significantly concentrated in the southern wards of Bellingham, Rushey Green, Downham and Whitefoot, the northern wards of Evelyn, New Cross, Telegraph Hill and parts of Brockley, and Lewisham Central.

5.8.1 GENDER

In Lewisham, 51.3% of the population are female residents and 48.7% are male residents. There are slightly more female than male residents in almost every age band and women are most over represented in the over 75 years age group.

Population by gender (GLA, 2006)



Currently there are around 6,000 more women than men in Lewisham; by 2026 the gap is predicted to rise to around 10,000. However, the older male population is predicted to rise at a higher rate than the older female population. By 2026 the male population aged over 75 years is predicted to increase by 14% while the equivalent female population is predicted to fall by 5% (Gender Projections 2006 – 2026 (GLA)).

The Census 2001 showed that in Lewisham borough there were 11,242 lone parent households with dependent children. The highest numbers of these were in Evelyn and New Cross Wards with 916 (8.1%) and 861 (7.6%) families respectively. Bellingham, Downham, Telegraph Hill and Sydenham wards each had more than 700 lone parent families.

Assessment Scoping

Housing theme

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that housing provision has a high impact on this equalities group.

Deptford, Lewisham Town Centre and Bellingham are the areas in the borough most likely to contain unsuitably housed households (Lewisham Housing Survey 2007, Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008).

The Lewisham Strategic Housing Market Assessment shows that the model of housing requirements demonstrates a very diverse pattern. There is a clear need for smaller market dwellings but a surplus of market dwellings with three bedrooms or more. There is also a high requirement for smaller social rented dwellings and for social rented dwellings with four or more bedrooms. There is an assessed need for social housing of 9,757 dwellings over the next five years with a clear requirement of one, two and four plus bedroom dwellings.

The Core Strategy is required to be in conformity with London Plan policies and has included options to provide 'Lifetime Homes' which are intended to be adaptable to changing needs over a lifetime of occupancy, and a requirement for 10% of all new housing to be wheelchair accessible or easily adapted for those using a wheelchair. This means that new homes will be capable of accommodating prams and buggies.

Access to employment theme

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that access to employment has a high impact on this equalities group.

Despite being the third most populous inner London borough, Lewisham's underlying economy is one of the smallest in London. The largest employers is the Public, Education and Health Services sector, followed by Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants and Banking and Finance. Town centres are key locations of economic activity (Lewisham Employment Land Study 2008).

The overall employment figure for Lewisham including those working in and out of the borough was 132,700 at Development 2005, with an increase of approximately 2,700 between 2000 and 2005. Only 31% of the residential population are employed in the

borough (Lewisham Employment Land Study 2008). The overall employment level is below the national average. In July 2007 the borough wide unemployment rate was 3.7% which was above the Greater London average.

The Census 2001 showed that Downham, Whitefoot Bellingham and Evelyn wards had considerably fewer people working in professional, and technical occupations than in other wards in the borough (Downham Ward 2.4%, Whitefoot and Bellingham Wards 2.9%, Evelyn Ward 3.8%). Otherwise no specific pattern of employment could be seen.

Transport theme

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that public transport has a high impact on this equalities group.

Access to a car in Lewisham is significantly lower compared to London with 43% of residents having no access to a car or van. There are significant variations throughout the Borough's wards ranging from over 50% households without a car in the more deprived wards (Brockley, Evelyn and New Cross) to under 33% in Catford South, and Grove Park (Census 2001). Walking will be the most important mode of travel at the local level and offers the potential to replace short car trips and therefore the quality of the street network is very important.

Evidence produced by the Planning Service has identified the Deptford New Cross area as needing significant improvements to the connectivity of the street network and accessibility to local community facilities (Deptford/New Cross Masterplan covering areas in Evelyn and New Cross wards). Many opportunities exist to improve transport infrastructure over the next five years and beyond, which will contribute to accessibility improvements. These include the extension of the East London Line, additional capacity for mainline trains through Thameslink, and major station improvements at Lewisham, Catford, Deptford and Forest Hill.

Community facilities theme

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that access to community facilities has a high impact on this group.

The Planning Service has conducted a preliminary assessment of social infrastructure needs arising from proposed new development in the Core Strategy Options Report covering education, health, leisure, recreation, community facilities, open spaces and emergency services. The assessment was conducted using a standard model produced by consultants for the Thames Gateway called the Social Infrastructure Framework (SIF) model. The SIF working paper has identified the following possible deficiencies using this model:

- Secondary school places, although the Building Schools for the Future programme will create a surplus by 2012
- Primary healthcare and one-stop primary healthcare centre with this increasing by 2012

- Shortfall in the amount of community centre provision although some is under-used.

Design of the public realm theme

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that the design of new development has a high impact on this equalities group.

Crime and the fear of crime are regularly mentioned in surveys of issues that concern local residents. Although Lewisham has generally lower levels of crime than most of the other inner London boroughs, fear of crime is a key issue (Metropolitan Police Service and Lewisham Residents Survey 2007).

The Core Strategy Options Report proposes that new development is designed to reduce the opportunity of crime, improve the street scene and the connectivity of the street network, and promotes Mixed Use developments that ensure high levels of natural surveillance by ensuring a variety of users throughout the day and evening.

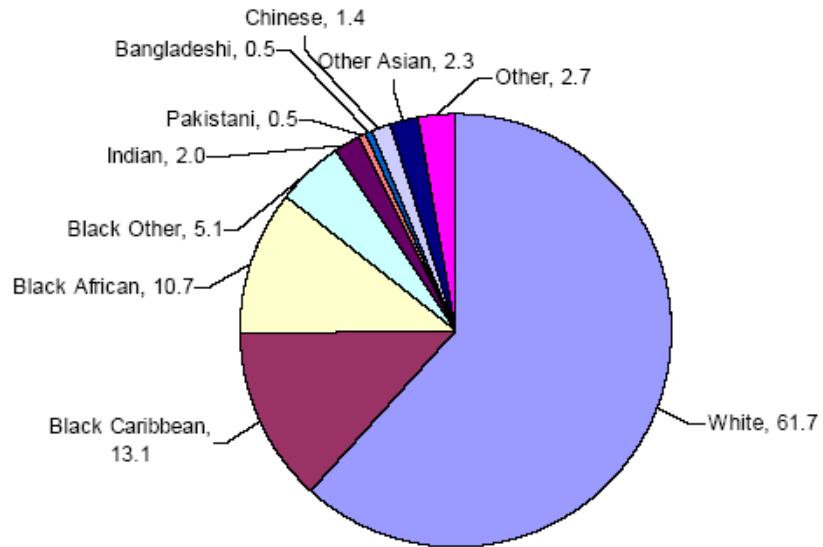
5.8.2 BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Lewisham is a diverse borough, with almost 40% of the population coming from BME communities. This diversity is also evident in our local schools, where 69% of the school population is from minority ethnic groups.

There has been a growth in all groups of the black and minority ethnic (BME) population from 39% of households in 2001 (Census 2001) to 49.4% of households in 2007 (Lewisham Strategic Housing Market Assessment) who are largely focussed in the northern and central parts of the borough.

Over the next two decades the borough is expected to become more diverse, with the BME population projected to rise to 45% by 2026. In particular, the Black Caribbean and Black African populations are expected to increase, with the Black African population experiencing the greatest growth. The total number of residents within the Black Other, Indian and Asian Other groups will also grow; however, the Chinese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi populations are projected to remain static.

Percentage of population by ethnic group (GLA, 2006)



The total number of people in the White population approximately remains the same, but the White population as a percentage of the total population will continue to decline, reflecting the growth of the BME population in relative numbers. The GLA have projected that the White population of Lewisham will be 55% in 2026, compared to 66% in 2001.

Ward data from the 2001 Census showed that Evelyn and New Cross wards had the highest numbers of BME people (63.1% and 62.4% respectively). Rushey Green, Telegraph Hill, and Brockley Wards each had just over 50%.

The London Boroughs' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (March 2008, Fordham Research for the GLA) found a minimum additional pitch requirement for Lewisham of four and a maximum residential pitch requirement of 16.

Ethnic projections – percentage of population (GLA, 2006)

Ethnic group	2001*	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	Overall change
White	66.0	61.7	58.9	57.1	55.9	55.0	-11.0
Black Caribbean	12.2	13.1	13.5	13.9	14.1	14.3	2.1
Black African	9.1	10.7	11.8	12.4	12.6	13.2	4.1
Black Other	4.6	5.1	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.3	1.7
Indian	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.8	1.4
Pakistani	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
Bangladeshi	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	-0.1
Chinese	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.1
Other Asian	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	0.6
Other	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.3	1.0

*2001 Census

Assessment Scoping

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that housing, access to employment, transport and community facilities themes have a high impact on this equalities group as does the design of new development and the public realm in reducing crime and the fear of crime. The information for each theme given in paragraph 5.6.1 is relevant and should be referred to.

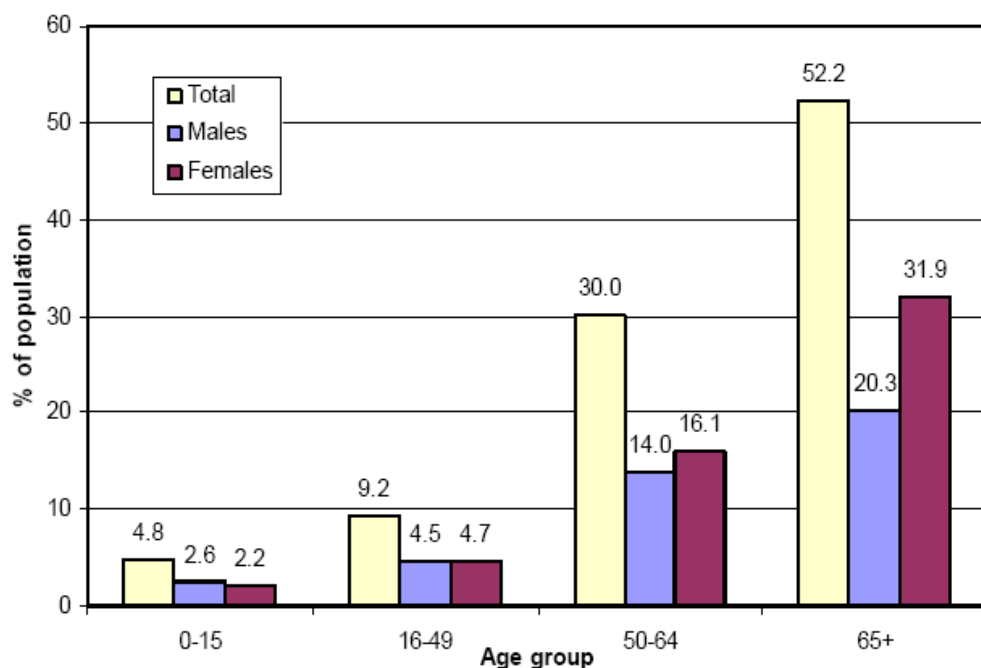
5.8.3 DISABILITY

The 2001 Census showed that Lewisham has 38,823 people or 15.6% of the population had a 'limiting long term illness. This compared to London as a whole at 15.49% and England at 17.93%.

Assessment Scoping

The assessment concluded that access to all facilities, including appropriate housing, employment, education and training, public transport and community facilities, and the quality and accessibility of the public realm all have a high impact on this equalities group. Information on these themes, relevant to this group is to be found in paragraph 5.6.3. Comments from consultation exercises (see below) refer to the physical quality of the street realm such as dropped kerbs, paving, suitable street furniture, access to public facilities, which are not the focus of the Core Strategy Options Report.

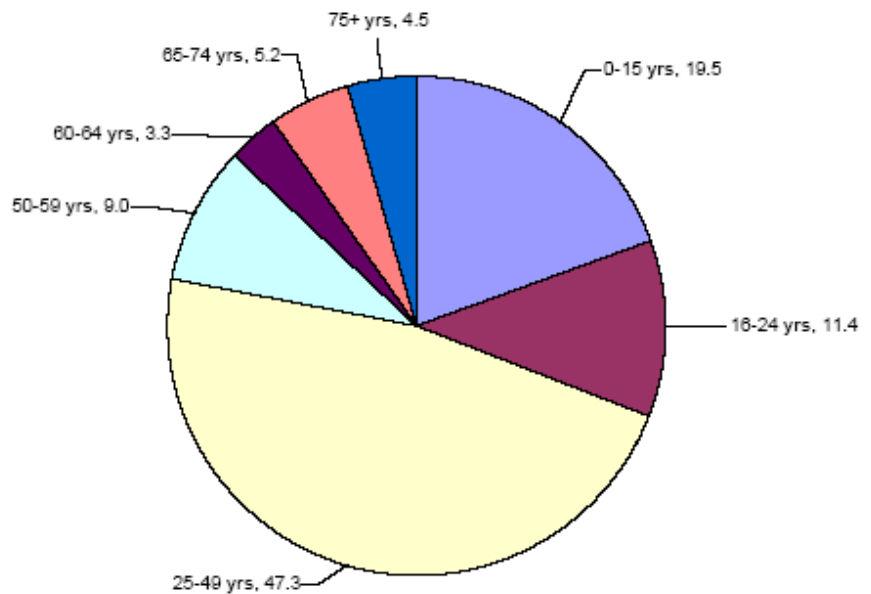
Percentage of population with a LLI, health problem or disability (ONS, 2001)



5.8.4 AGE

Lewisham has a relatively young population; almost a fifth of its population is in the 0–15 years age group. Approximately one in seven people in the borough are aged over 60, compared to around one in five nationally.

Percentage of population by age (GLA, 2006)



In percentage terms, by 2026 the overall make-up of the population by age band remains relatively unchanged. However, there are clear trends within individual age bands. The 50–59 and 60–64 age bands are projected to increase by 37 percentage points and 47 percentage points respectively as Lewisham’s relatively young population ages. The 16–24 age band is the only age band to decline.

Assessment Scoping

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping shows that housing, access to employment, transport and community facilities themes have a high impact on this equalities group as does the design of new development and the public realm in reducing crime and the fear of crime. Information on these themes are to be found in paragraph 5.6.1 above.

The assessment scoping also showed that in addition the provision of open space and playing facilities is of great concern to young people. Information on the amount of provision is given below.

Open Space Theme

Open Space makes up almost 20% of the borough’s land area of which

- 415 ha is classified as Public Open Space
- 69 ha is classified as green corridor (rail side land)

- Almost 300 ha is classified as Metropolitan Open Land (i.e. open space considered to be of strategic importance for the whole of London) and
- Just over 300 ha is designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

The existing capacity of open space in Lewisham amounts to 16.96 square metres per person or 1.695 ha per 1,000 population. It is estimated that in order to maintain the current per person ratio of 16.95 square metres, in the face of projected population increases Lewisham must increase its public open space provision by 9.6 ha by 2012.

The Open Space Strategy for Lewisham (2005-2010) sets out the local standard of 1.7 ha per 1000 persons which would require an extra 10.9 ha of public open space provision by 2012, and identifies areas of deficiency in public open space.

The Core Strategy proposes to retain and protect the Open Spaces in the borough. The Open Space Strategy for Lewisham identifies areas of open space deficiency that could potentially be improved with the provision of small new open spaces as part of the mixed use employment developments proposed in the Core Strategy Options Report in the Deptford/New Cross area, although it is considered unlikely that an increase of 9.6 ha or 10.9 ha by 2012 is practically achievable.

5.8.5 **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

In Britain there is relatively little national research on the lives of lesbians, gays and bisexuals. The only nationwide surveys that have already provided information on sexual orientation are the Census and the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyle (NSSAL).

The NSSAL in 2000 found that approximately 5% of men and women in Britain stated that they had ever had same-sex partners. This figure rose to over 10% for men and almost 7% for women who lived in London.

The Census in 2001 published more localised data, including the number of same-sex couples that were living together in each local authority. This reported that Lewisham has the 12th largest number of same-sex couples sharing a home, with 1,070 people describing themselves as living with a same-sex partner.

In the meantime, there are various other estimates of the extent of the gay and lesbian population in Lewisham. Using central government's guideline of 6% of the total population, the gay and lesbian population in Lewisham would be more than 15,000. This estimate does not include bisexual adults, or people who come to Lewisham to work or socialise, so the true extent of the LGB communities may well be greater than this. In 2007 a question on sexual orientation was added to the Council's Annual Residents Survey for the first time. Over 1,000 residents were randomly selected from across the borough to participate in these face-to-face interviews, of which 2% identified themselves as being gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Assessment Scoping

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping found that the impact of the Core Strategy Options Report on this group would be low apart from improvements to the design of new development and the public realm to reduce crime and the fear of crime. It is likely however that improvements under all the identified themes would be of benefit to members of this equalities group.

5.8.6 RELIGION AND BELIEF SYSTEM

Prevalence of religion or faith (Census, 2001)

	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religions	No religion	Not stated
Inner London	54.57	1.00	1.90	1.78	11.67	0.51	0.44	18.34	9.79
Camden	47.10	1.31	1.53	5.63	11.57	0.22	0.59	22.02	10.03
Hackney	46.56	1.14	0.81	5.29	13.76	0.85	0.57	19.03	11.99
Hammersmith and Fulham	63.65	0.77	1.09	0.79	6.85	0.19	0.43	17.64	8.59
Haringey	50.07	1.05	2.05	2.64	11.26	0.33	0.52	19.98	12.09
Islington	54.21	1.05	1.00	1.05	8.11	0.34	0.41	23.72	10.12
Kensington and Chelsea	61.96	1.16	1.00	2.23	8.41	0.20	0.57	15.25	9.20
Lambeth	58.82	0.86	1.27	0.45	5.39	0.16	0.47	21.70	10.88
Lewisham	61.25	1.09	1.69	0.28	4.62	0.17	0.46	20.40	10.05
Newham	46.84	0.65	6.93	0.20	24.31	2.83	0.27	9.01	8.95
Southwark	61.58	1.07	1.09	0.41	6.85	0.24	0.36	18.51	9.89
Tower Hamlets	38.64	0.99	0.79	0.93	36.40	0.35	0.27	14.19	7.44
Wandsworth	61.81	0.71	2.28	0.65	5.20	0.25	0.36	19.99	8.77
Westminster	55.05	1.32	1.93	4.27	11.77	0.22	0.52	16.16	8.76

The table above gives data on the prevalence of different religions across London. This is based on 2001 Census data, the first census to include a question on religion. The table and graph below show that the diversity of Lewisham's population in terms of ethnicity is not reflected in its religions and faiths. Lewisham has the lowest proportion in Inner London of people with a religion other than Christianity (8%), with the highest being 40% in Tower Hamlets and the Inner London average being 17%. More specifically, Lewisham has the lowest proportion of Muslim people in Inner London (4.6%), and the second lowest proportion of Jewish and Sikh people. Although Christianity is clearly the most prevalent religion in the borough (at 61% it is the fifth highest proportion in Inner London), Lewisham also has a relatively high proportion of people (30%) either with 'no religion' or who did not state their religion when asked.

Data from the 2001 Census shows no particular pattern of geographical distribution of the various faith groups. The exception to this being Evelyn and New Cross Wards which had 7.3% and 7% respectively of Muslim people.

Assessment Scoping

The Equality Impact Assessment Scoping found that the issues for this group were housing, public transport (refer to paragraph 5.6.1) and access to appropriate community facilities and church buildings. The work being done by the Planning Service in assessing the amount of community infrastructure available is in its early days (see Community Facilities theme in paragraph 5.6.1).

6 Consultation

6.1 The Council is consulting on the contents of this Equality Impact Assessment at the same time as it is consulting on the Core Strategy Options Report and its Sustainability Appraisal.

6.2 The consultation on the Core Strategy Options Report is a statutory requirement and must be carried out according to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which forms part of the suite of Local Development Framework documents. The SCI was published in 2006 and can be found at:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/PlanningPolicy/StatementCommunityInvolvement.htm> .

6.3 The Government in the guidance issued for the preparation of Local Development Framework documents (Planning Policy Statement 12) states that communities should be involved as stakeholders in the preparation of the plan. The SCI at paragraph 2.3 states that the Council will consult the following sections of the Lewisham community defined as hard to reach groups:

- Children and young people
- Minority ethnic people
- Older people
- Faith/religion groups
- Gender groups
- Gay and lesbian people
- Disabled people

6.4 The Issues and Options consultation stage was the first consultation stage for the preparation of the Core Strategy. The Preferred Options consultation was the second stage of preparing the Core Strategy. A full account of the consultation for both Issues and Options and the Preferred Options can be found at:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/PlanningPolicy/LocalDevelopmentFramework/LDFConsultation/>.

6.5 The current stage of plan preparation has built on previous consultation stages, and the comments made from the equalities groups consulted. Due to comments received from Government Office for London on various issues including the evidence base and a number presentation issues the Council is re-consulting on the preparation of its Core Strategy and hence prepared the Core Strategy Options Report.

6.6 The Planning Service has a comprehensive database of community groups who were directly informed by post of the planning proposals, including groups who meet all the above categories. Results of both consultation stages (June to December 2005 for the Issues and Options and May to July 2006 for the Preferred Options) and the equalities issues raised by various groups are summarised below, and as stated above the reports as a whole are on the website.

- Provision of social rented housing was in great demand.

- Questions about the amount of new community infrastructure that would be required to meet the needs of the increase in population and the proposed growth in housing were raised and there were concerns over where and how new community and infrastructure facilities would be provided, both in terms of such facilities as healthcare, and other community facilities, and transport provision.
- Provision of special needs and specialist housing was supported.
- There was general support for the protection and enhancement of town centres to provide accessible shopping facilities and for the protection of a core of employment locations to provide accessible job opportunities.
- Need for cycle parking areas, and improved public transport was identified.
- Good design was supported. This could range between design for new accessible housing, street facilities such as paving and visual aspects of new development.
- There was support for housing mix in terms of provision of larger family dwellings and lifetime homes.
- There was support for the Mixed Use Employment Policy but concerns were also raised by some about the loss of existing employment opportunities and industrial buildings

6.7 The Planning Service also held meetings with particular equalities groups. The Service has limited capacity to undertake large numbers of meetings, however it was hoped that this targeted selection would add to and confirm the large scale consultation results obtained by responses from the postal consultation exercise. The outcomes of these meetings are summarised below:

Sure Start Group at the Shaftesbury Christian Centre Deptford

The major concern of this group was that new housing development should provide a mix of dwellings to provide for family occupation, and that it should not be limited to small one or two bedroom flats. The other concern expressed was that community facilities, especially in Deptford and New Cross would be insufficient to support the large amount of development proposed in the Core Strategy Options Report.

Sure Start Group Bellingham

Concerns expressed about need for open space for children to play, improvements to Catford Town Centre environment. Safety and fear of crime, particularly at night was a key concern.

Pensioners Forum

This group were concerned about the following issues of relevance to the Core Strategy:

- The Bellingham area should be included in proposals for local renewal.
- The percentage of affordable housing proposed to be derived from new developments was not considered sufficiently ambitious.

Elders Summer School Goldsmiths College

People in this group were concerned about

- The quality of the streetscape and street furniture, such as public toilets, bus shelters and seating.
- Protection of local amenities such as the Broadway Theatre and also the lack of a cinema in the borough.
- Housing designed to a high standard to enable independent living in mixed communities but also appreciating differing housing needs to promote harmony.
- Promotion of bungalow style developments for elderly people.
- Sufficient support networks.
- Importance of greenery and open space.
- Importance of energy saving systems and devices such as solar panels.

Lewisham Disability Coalition

People in this group were concerned that

- All new housing development should be built to 'Lifetime Homes' standards, and accessible homes should be built on the ground floor of new developments.
- Public facilities including shops and public toilets should be accessible.
- Accommodation for voluntary groups should be provided for from planning obligations.
- General concern about the quality of the streetscape, dropped kerbs, paving and parking spaces for disabled people.

Vietnamese Group

This group who are based in the Pepys Estate area were concerned about the new mixed development being promoted by the Core Strategy at Oxestalls Road. They were

- Pleased that the area would be improved which would improve their quality of life.
- Low cost business units were seen as desirable to give their children routes into employment and therefore reduce the possibility of 'turning to crime'.
- The upgrading of business units had the potential to reduce the numbers of jobs available to local people.
- High density housing would need adequate open space that is safe for all age groups which could also provide opportunities for intercultural living, exercise, and socialising.
- Crime was a major concern limiting access to services and public spaces.
- Enhanced, safer and more pleasant routes to Deptford Green School and to Deptford High Street were needed.
- Need for a community facility to provide large and small rooms at low fees for community celebration and access to services and information.

Faith Groups including the Crofton Park Baptist Church, College Park Baptist Church and Churches in Lewisham

Points made included:

- Concerns expressed about graffiti, anti social behaviour and security issues.
- Protection of public open space and its use by as many people as possible in order to create a sense of equity.
- Flexibility of other uses to be introduced into shops that had been in long term vacancy.
- The importance of public transport networks for faith groups.
- Promoted the sharing of community meeting rooms to be used flexibly by several groups, and the needs of different faith groups for different types of buildings.
- The importance of Lewisham Town Centre as a place, its special location as a focal point for local identity, which should be developed in an iconic way to make it a genuine community asset and 'put it on the map'.

6.9 It is considered that the outcomes of these extensive consultation exercises confirms the results of the scoping exercises and the general approach taken in the Core Strategy Options Report.

7 Assessment of impact and outcomes and reducing any adverse impact

7.1 The overall assessment concludes that the Core Strategy Options Report does not result in discrimination, and most policies have a positive impact. Two potential negative impacts were identified. These results are discussed further in Appendix 1 to this report.

7.2 A potential adverse impact on faith groups was identified arising from the protection of employment land in the policy options, which the Council is entitled to do under National Planning Policy Guidance in the interests of retaining the vitality and viability of the local economy. Cheaper premises in business and industrial locations offer attractive buildings for churches and meeting rooms. The Council often enforces against these unauthorised uses in the interests of preserving modern business premises which, according to evidence prepared by the Council (Lewisham Employment Land Study 2008) are in short supply.

7.3 The Core Strategy Options Report, particularly Strategic Spatial Option 1 does, however, propose the release of considerable amounts of land, currently in sole business and industrial use for Mixed Use Employment Locations, where a wider range of community uses will be appropriate and, also proposes that a network of community facilities should be provided from section 106 planning obligations arising from large new developments. This should act to reduce the negative impacts of this policy direction, and also act to meet the concerns of some community groups reported in the consultation section of this report that the development of housing on the Mixed Use Employment Locations in the Deptford/New Cross area would result in

pressure being put on the capacity of local community facilities and the transport network.

- 7.4 A further potential adverse impact was identified in the development of the Mixed Use Employment Locations in Strategic Spatial Option 1 which will result in the loss of some traditionally provided workshop, industrial and warehousing floorspace which will result in some firms needing relocation. There will be a consequent loss of some existing local employment opportunities, as some of these businesses will not wish to take space in the new business developments for various reasons. The figures are not available to gauge the number of people in equalities groups employed in these firms. These jobs should be replaced in new business floorspace, with the potential to offer wider and more varied jobs and training opportunities. The negative impact of the loss of premises for some businesses could be mitigated by support provided by the Council and other development agencies for the relocation of these firms into other premises close by.
- 7.5 One specific suggestion arose from internal discussion during the assessment which was that parking for child buggies and prams could be required in major new development to the benefit of the Gender Equalities group. This suggestion cannot be incorporated into the Core Strategy but can be included in other more detailed documents that will form part of the Local Development Framework.
- 7.6 Options under housing and employment, transport and the provision of community facilities are likely to create a range of opportunities for the community as a whole, which would help directly or indirectly in dealing with complex issues such as poverty, social exclusion, and safety within the borough. Managing and improving the natural and physical environment will have benefits for everyone within Lewisham's diverse communities.
- 7.7 The assessment of the Strategic Spatial Options concludes that Strategic Spatial Option 1 presents the most advantageous result for equalities groups as it promotes regeneration for the whole borough. The Deptford/New Cross area in particular is the focus of extensive regeneration which will benefit equalities groups identified by this report as living in this area. The benefits of Strategic Spatial Option 2 for this area is much less marked and extensive. These benefits will however, depend on the implementation of the associated physical and social infrastructure outlined in Core Strategy Options Report. The options for section 106 planning obligations or whether to opt for the Community Infrastructure Levy are particularly important in this respect.

8. Action Plan

- 8.1 The Core Strategy is at an early stage of preparation. It will not become the formal policy of the Council until November 2010 due to the number of further stages of preparation required (see Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) published April 2008). Until that date the Unitary Development Plan 2004 and the London Plan comprise the Development Plan for the borough used to grant or refuse planning permission.

- 8.2 The Planning Service work programme for the Local Development Framework includes the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document which will set out the framework for the planning obligations that will be sought to meet the identified requirements of the equalities groups outlined in this report. This document is projected to be completed and adopted by November 2010 (LDS 2008) and will be a very important document aiding the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Core Strategy.
- 8.3 The provision of appropriate community infrastructure has been identified as an issue of concern to equalities groups in the Deptford/New Cross area due to the amount of new development that will be focused there over the plan period up to 2026. The Planning Service will be preparing an Infrastructure Implementation Schedule that be required to support the Core Strategy and will need to be ready for the next stage of Plan Preparation in 2009 (see Diagram 1 page 4 'Pre-Submission Community Involvement on Preferred Option' stage).
- 8.4 Other documents to be prepared include a Development Policies document that will be able to provide policies that deal with some of the more detailed concerns of equalities groups, as opposed to the rather 'broad brush' approach taken by the Core Strategy. This document is projected to be completed and adopted by January 2011 (LDS April 2008).
- 8.5 Further investigative work into the structure of employment in the industrial and warehousing premises on sites proposed for redevelopment as Mixed Use Employment Locations so as to mitigate any potential adverse impact on equalities groups will need to be undertaken. As the delivery of new development on these sites will take place probably over the entire plan period (up to 2026) and on a piecemeal basis, research into the make up of employees will rapidly become out of date. It is recommended that this work should represent an ongoing commitment by the Economic Development Service working in conjunction with the Planning Service to identify any impacts as and when development proposals come forward.
- 8.6 A contribution to the future work programme could be a programme of briefings for Regeneration Staff and other groups across the Council as to the significance and nature of the documents that make up the Local Development Framework due to their significance in providing the physical implementation framework of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy (6 months to 1 year).

9 Formal agreement

- 9.1 This Equalities Impact Assessment will require agreement by the Planning Management Team, Regeneration Management Team, Corporate Equalities Board and Mayor and Cabinet.

10 Publication of results

- 10.1 This report will be published on the Council's website in the Equalities section and also made available for consultation and comment on the Planning web pages.

11 Monitoring

- 11.1 This document presents policy options and directions only. It is a consultation document, and members of the public are invited to make choices between the options presented and consider whether all reasonable alternative approaches to planning the future of the borough have been considered.
- 11.2 The next stage of plan preparation is a published Core Strategy (draft plan) which will make choices between the various policy options presented, and following further public consultation a submission plan followed by an independent Examination in Public. This will result in a final plan for adoption by the Council.
- 11.3 Monitoring arrangements such as the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will enable the Council to examine and assess more closely the implementation of policies in the Plan once they are adopted, and how they impact on equalities issues. This monitoring will also be undertaken by the Planning Management Team, Regeneration Management Team, the Corporate Equalities Board and Mayor and Cabinet. However, at this stage the policies in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2004 and the London Plan represent the adopted Development Plan for the borough and which are the subject of current monitoring exercises.

APPENDIX 1 - Assessment of relevance of the Core Strategy Options Report

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Strategic Spatial Options							
Option 1: Borough-wide regeneration and growth	H	H	H	H	L	M	<p>This option provide large amounts of new housing, new employment and training opportunities, an improved urban environment, improved transport links, new community facilities that are likely to be of benefit to all equalities groups according to the Scoping Assessment and demographic data.</p> <p>It has the potential to provide physical and social regeneration of large areas of Deptford/New Cross which are poor in environmental quality, and which are identified in the main report as having high levels of deprivation. It will therefore have a high positive impact. The regeneration of these areas will be in addition to the regeneration strategy pursued in Option 2. The intention of Option 1 is to provide new forms of employment, new housing in line with Core Strategy aims (up to 20,000 dwellings), increase accessibility and connectivity and provide new associated community and transport facilities.</p> <p>Concern was expressed in previous rounds of consultation about the level of development proposed and whether strain would be put on community services and the transport network in Deptford/New Cross thereby resulting in a negative effect on equalities groups who may be employed in this area.</p> <p>Clearly in order to meet equalities issues the Council will also need to ensure that the appropriate level of community and transport facilities are provided commensurate with the level and intensity of housing development proposed.</p>

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
							<p>Option 1 will result in the loss of up to 134,000 m² of more 'traditional' style warehousing and industrial floorspace and its replacement by up to 106,800 m² of new employment floorspace over six sites in the Deptford/New Cross Area currently in business and industrial use. The net extra supply of floorspace will range between 74,000 m² and 174,000 m² depending on the density and type of employment development undertaken. It is expected that the new floorspace will provide a more varied range of jobs, and training opportunities while retaining a reservoir of the more industrial style of employment floorspace. Whether these jobs will be suitable for local equalities groups will depend on implementation which is hard to predict as the Core Strategy is a broad brush document and does not provide detailed guidance, but the policies do provide for new employment and training opportunities.</p> <p>A potential adverse impact is identified in that some firms will not wish to take up space in new business development and some local jobs will need to be relocated.</p> <p>The information is not available to quantify this impact on equalities groups, but action should be taken to mitigate this by assisting firms in relocation arrangements to support them through a period of adjustment.</p> <p>This Option essentially provides Borough wide growth and regeneration by the development of Mixed Use sites in Deptford/New Cross which are in addition to the more modest approach to regeneration proposed in Option 2.</p>

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Option 2: Modest approach to borough-wide regeneration based on the implementing and achieving the parameters of national and regional planning policy.	H	H	H	H	L	M	<p>Bellingham and Downham wards are identified as areas for social regeneration which is projected to help the identified equalities groups in these areas.</p> <p>This option also provides regeneration opportunities but does not include development across a number of poorly used industrial sites in Deptford/New Cross. It therefore does not have the same level of positive impact on the areas of deprivation identified in the main report.</p> <p>Nevertheless extensive development is proposed in Lewisham Town Centre and uses in and around Catford Town Centre will also be intensified. One site at Creekside will be redeveloped as a Mixed Use Employment Location.</p> <p>Regeneration under this option is expected to provide new access to housing and jobs, and provide new opportunities for equalities groups. Although the amount of new housing is expected to be about 50% of that proposed in Option 1 the Council will still need to ensure that new community facilities and services are provided and public transport is at an appropriate level to ensure no negative impact on equalities groups. It should be noted that both growth options promote mixed use developments which are likely to improve the sustainability and usability of the new developments for all equalities groups by providing for a range of uses which ensure that there is activity throughout the day and evening and thereby promoting social inclusiveness and reducing fear of crime. This option does not however promote such major redevelopment in the Deptford/New Cross area so the opportunities it presents fewer</p>

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Core Strategy policy directions - Council's recommended options							
Providing New Homes							
Housing provision	H	H	H	H	L	M	This is of benefit to all sections of community as the policy seeks to meet and exceed London Plan target for housing over a period of ten years. Gender Groups, BME Groups, Disability and Age equalities groups will all benefit from increased access to appropriately designed housing. Religions and belief system groups will also benefit due to some of these groups having larger size families.
Affordable housing threshold	H	H	H	H	L	M	This option states that affordable housing will be sought on sites of 0.3 ha or larger or capable of providing 10 or more dwellings an that 50% of these dwellings should be affordable. This presents an increase on previous local policies and is likely to benefit most equalities groups who have difficulties in accessing housing including gender, BME, age and disabilities equalities groups.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Housing tenure	H	H	H	H	L	M	This option states that affordable housing will be given priority over other types of tenure on housing sites which is likely to benefit most equalities groups as above. The options also states that the Council will support 100% affordable housing schemes.
Housing mix	H	H	H	H	L	H	This option requires that new development provides a range of dwelling types and sizes. This is likely to benefit varying groups within the community who have differing requirements for size and type of dwelling. Comments above also apply. This option is likely to have greater relevance to religious groups due to the need of some groups for large family housing.
Lifetime Homes	M	M	H	H	L	L	This option is especially relevant to older people and people with disabilities who will be helped by ensuring that dwellings are flexible enough to be adapted for a lifetime of changing requirements for accessibility. The homes also help parents who need to gain access and store baby buggies, and therefore have a positive impact on gender groups.
Accessible housing	L	L	H	H	L	L	This option requires 10% of all new dwellings to be wheelchair accessible in line with the London Plan and encourages special needs housing provision in line with the Lewisham Strategic Housing Market Assessment. It therefore specially relevant to Disability groups, and older people.
Gypsies and travellers	L	H	L	L	L	L	The options aims to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers using a criteria based approach to site selection with the aim of providing an appropriate site to accommodate them in line with the locally assessed need for a site.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Grow Local Economy							
Strategic Industrial Locations	M	M	M	M	L	M	Strategic Industrial Locations are intended to provide a reservoir of land that is protected for lower value uses such as waste transfer, warehousing, transport depots, and public utilities. The emphasis is therefore not on provision of jobs but the protection of London's basic infrastructure for these purposes. If these functions were not protected then there would be access issues affecting all groups in the community requiring access to transport and the disposal of waste and other basic economic functions. The option is therefore of medium relevance to gender, BME, disability, age and religious groups as the impact of the policy is likely to be indirect.
Locally significant employment areas	H	H	H	H	L	H	Providing sites for smaller business units, creative industries and other workshop units throughout the borough will benefit the local economy of the borough, and provide access to jobs and training opportunities close to home thus benefiting the whole community. A network of jobs closer to home is likely to benefit gender, BME, disabilities, and age equalities groups. Some religious communities experience difficulties in finding appropriate premises for new churches or meeting rooms and may seek to locate in small warehouse premises which are protected for business use, and the Council then takes enforcement action against these uses. Whilst this could be viewed as being disadvantageous to religious groups the Council has taken the decision to protect modern business units that are in short supply according to the evidence prepared by the Council. The Council is proposing Mixed use Employment Locations which will allow more varied uses on some employment land which could help to remedy this situation.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
New and growing business and industrial sectors	H	H	H	H	L	H	The Mixed Use Employment Locations are in the Deptford/New Cross area which is identified in the main report as an area suffering multiple deprivation across a range of equalities groups including gender, BME, disabilities and age equalities groups. This option concerns the Mixed Use Employment Locations that are expected to provide new and important employment and training opportunities. Mixed Use developments which provide a range of uses that will be populated through the day and evening will help in reducing crime and the fear of crime which is of positive benefit to all identified equalities groups. These locations will provide opportunities for new community uses and perhaps help in providing premises for some equalities groups in particular faith communities who have had difficulties in obtaining appropriate meeting accommodation.
Convoys Wharf	M	M	M	M	L	M	This option refers to the proposed development of Convoys Wharf for a mix of housing, employment space and community and leisure facilities. It is expected to provide important new facilities that will benefit all identified equalities groups albeit on one large site adjacent to the Thames so it will benefit those people who live close by.
Other employment locations	H	H	H	H	M	H	This option concerns the retention of a network of smaller business and commercial premises that have the potential to provide a network of local business services and employment opportunities close to where people live. This option is therefore of positive benefit to all the identified equalities groups.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Retail hierarchy	H	H	H	H	M	M	This option also allows for consideration of whether some premises in business use should remain in this use which could release some sites for other sorts of community use, for example meeting places for faith groups where appropriate. This option proposes a network of town centres that provide various retail and other facilities. It provides for local shops and shopping parades which present opportunities for niche retailers to provide specialist goods for various equalities groups. It is important for all equalities groups to be able to access these facilities and therefore has a positive benefit for all.
Location of retail development	H	H	H	H	M	M	This option locates major retail, leisure and other town centre uses within the major and district town centres. This ensures that large development is close to appropriate public transport and therefore accessible to as many sections of the community as possible without the need for private transport such as a car, particular gender and BME groups and disability groups.
Lewisham and Catford centres	M	M	M	M	L	L	This option concerns the enhancement of the status of Lewisham and Catford Town Centres and promotion and improvement of their function, character, vitality and viability. Many equalities groups will visit these centres less frequently for more major shopping trips. The enhancement of their status and function will ensure that people in the borough do not have to travel far to high quality varied facilities and that they are accessible by local public transport. Comments above in relation to equalities groups apply.
Vitality and viability	H	M	H	H	H	H	This designates certain shopping areas in Town Centres and protects them against changes of use away from retail shops and to ensure essential services are maintained.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Environment and design	H	H	H	H	M	H	<p>This option will help to protect the retail function of town centres and so protect a range of retail facilities covering the whole borough. This is of importance to enable all equalities groups to maintain access to a range and choice of local shops and provisions.</p> <p>The option will also protect of 'non-core' areas for non-retail uses but which nevertheless are important to the functioning of town centres may be important for the requirements faith groups have for buildings, and to Sexual Orientation groups using evening entertainment premises so there would potentially be places to locate.</p>
Accessibility	H	H	H	H	L	M	<p>Good design and a high quality environment contributes to accessibility, and a reduction in crime and the fear of crime which will benefit all equalities groups.</p> <p>This option promotes good accessibility, and the encouragement of better accessibility by public transport, and is important for all equalities groups who are disadvantaged in terms of access to transport.</p>
Local shopping facilities	H	H	H	H	L	H	<p>This option promotes a network of local shopping facilities and so is advantageous to most equalities groups particularly those that suffer access issues. Local shopping facilities can also provide specialist provision for local BME and faith communities.</p>

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Climate change and environmental management							
Climate change and adapting to the effects	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option is concerned with mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change will in general benefit all sections of the community.
Sustainable design and construction and energy efficiency	H	H	H	H	L	H	This option requires new development to be designed to high and energy efficiency standards, and to reduce CO2 emissions will benefit equalities groups who are financially disadvantaged by reducing power bills, enabling the better heating of homes and contributing to overall health. These include all equalities groups but in particular gender, BME, disabilities, age and religious groups.
Managing and mitigating the risk of flooding	H	H	H	M	L	L	This option states ways of managing and mitigating flood risk. Many equalities groups live in areas of the borough that are considered more likely to be at risk from flooding in particular the Deptford New Cross Area is potentially at risk from the Thames and there are flood risk areas along the Ravensbourne Valley. It is especially important for people with disabilities that development is designed to mitigate flood risk, and also gender groups with children.
River and waterways network	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option enhancing and improving river water quality and river frontages will create a sense of place and identity that will benefit everyone in the community.
Open space protection	H	H	H	H	L	M	Protection of open spaces will provide a network of accessible open spaces, contribute to play facilities and sports provision for young people, and the overall health of the community and be of benefit to most equalities groups as identified in the public consultation exercise.

APPENDIX 1 - Assessment of relevance of the Core Strategy Options Report

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Open space provision	H	H	H	H	L	L	Provision of new open spaces will likely to improve the overall health of disadvantaged sections of the community, provide accessible recreational and sports facilities which will enhance a sense of community and wellbeing and therefore likely to benefit most equalities groups. This option identifies an area of open space deficiency in the Deptford/New Cross area where new developments could act to improve the amount of open space in the area and thereby improve access for people living in this area. Equalities groups that are relevant are gender groups, BME groups, disabilities groups and age groups.
Biodiversity	L	L	L	M	L	L	This option proposes the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity features is unlikely to have any negative impact on the equality groups. The retention of locally important habitats will be of educational value to young people in the Age Equalities group.
Waterways naturalisation	L	L	L	L	L	L	This Option which encourages proposals for the naturalisation of waterways and rivers in conjunction with the Environment Agency help in reducing flooding, and improve water quality which will be of benefit to the community as a whole.
Character and design of open space	H	H	H	H	M	M	This option ensures that new public open space is accessible and attractive is of benefit to the community in general. Design can be used to enhance safety and reduce the fear of crime thereby improving usability and accessibility. It therefore of special relevance to all equalities groups who feel vulnerable to crime and have concerns about personal safety. It is therefore of direct relevance and positive benefit to gender, BME groups, disabilities and age groups, and sexual orientation groups.

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Addressing Lewisham's waste requirements	M	M	M	M	L	M	This option deals with the disposal of Lewisham's waste including the potential for energy recovery which would be beneficial to those people able to take advantage of district heating systems fuelled by energy recovery. Appropriate waste handling is of general benefit to all sections of the community.
Building a sustainable community							
Accessibility	H	H	H	H	L	M	This options promotes good transport and the ability to move around freely which is central to all the borough's population to grasp opportunities and contribute to community cohesion. Hence the policy approach and emphasis on improving public transport should, in general, be beneficial to the equality target groups as these are less likely to own or have access to a private car and rely on public transport, walking and cycling. The young and some of the elderly would be unable to drive a car. Women often do not have access to a car. However, where public transport is deemed to be unsafe (or too costly) this could prohibit use, particularly by the elderly and women. Improvements across the borough to encourage and enhance public transport addresses accessibility issues and promotes health and well being for the benefit of all sections of the community.
Parking requirements	M	L	H	L	L	L	This option promotes accessibility for people with disabilities in terms of car parking provision. However, consider incorporating a requirement that large new developments provide accessible space for parents with prams.
Transport infrastructure improvements	H	H	H	H	L	L	Improvements to the existing transport infrastructure is critical to ability of all the borough's population as a whole, and to the identified equalities groups who do not have access to private transport to move around and ensure accessibility and is also likely to benefit everyone in the community.

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Freight	L	L	L	L	L	L	The approach taken to freight movement in the preferred option should result in environmental improvements for the benefit of all sections of the community. It proposes the uses of the River Thames and the Transport for London Road Network (e.g. the South Circular) as freight transport corridors. It is of low direct relevance to community groups.
Improving design for Lewisham	H	H	M	H	M	M	This option focuses on principles to design out crime will benefit groups such as women or older people and some BME and sexual orientation groups who are vulnerable to crime or have concerns about safety. In general, promoting good design for new built environment will promote feelings of safety by providing a high quality environment that is accessible, connected and legible. This will benefit and improve morale in all identified equalities groups
Conserving Lewisham's historic environment	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option preserving Lewisham's historic environment will create a sense of local identity which will benefit the community in general. It is however of low direct relevance to identified equalities groups.
The location for tall buildings	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option ensures that tall buildings are directed to areas where other tall buildings are located and close to centres of good public transport such as Lewisham and Catford town centres. It will prevent negative impacts on the character of identified heritage and open space features in and from the borough resulting in improvements in the environment for the benefit of all sections of the community.
Strategic and local views, landmarks and panoramas	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option provides effective management of strategic and local views, landmarks and panoramas. It will enhance the quality of the landscape for the benefit of all sections of the community, including the identified equalities target groups.

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Options	Gender	BME	Disability	Age	Sexual Orientation	Religion and Belief System	Comment
Lewisham's river and waterways network	L	L	L	L	L	L	This option seeks to improve visual links to the rivers and waterways network. This will improve the character and the quality and accessibility of the area to the benefit of all sections of the community, including equality groups.
Community and recreational facilities	H	H	H	H	M	H	This option provides a network of community, health, education, cultural, entertainment and arts facilities across the whole borough. This will benefit equalities groups with poor access to public transport, and low incomes. The loss of a local community facility will harm disadvantaged groups more as they have to pay more out of often limited incomes to access facilities further away. A network of these facilities will help cohesion amongst groups such as BME groups, gender groups, people with disabilities and older people who might feel isolated and contribute to improving social inclusion.
Delivering educational achievements	H	H	M	H	L	L	This option which promotes the Building Schools for the Future programme and the enhancement of the other major educational facilities in Lewisham will improve literacy rates and skills with in the borough thus benefiting everyone in the community. High quality adult and further education facilities close to home will benefit people with disabilities, gender groups, BME groups and others with limited access to travel facilities.

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Healthy lifestyles and healthcare provision	H	H	H	H	H	H	This options supports the implementation of the Lewisham Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy Plan, ensures that the potential health impacts of development are identified and addressed at an early stage in the planning process, support local health facilities. Policies on healthcare facilities is of general benefit to all sections of the community. Equalities groups often experience difficulties in accessing and obtaining appropriate health care for the reasons identified in the main report scoping assessment.
Planning Obligations and CIL							
Section 106 Planning Obligations	H	H	H	H	M	M	Section 106 of the Planning Acts is a mechanism/tool to arrange for funds for a range of community improvements that may be required arising from new development. Developers agree to make either a financial contribution, or provide new facilities for community needs identified as resulting from any new development. The Option will have a general positive impact on the community as a whole. This option will also help to ensure that the improvements in the number and range of community facilities that will be required in association with increased population and housing provision will be met so as to ensure that the equalities groups identified in the main report are not disadvantaged and indeed positively benefit from the new development proposed. The Planning Service Works programme includes the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document which will be based on evidence as to what will be appropriately required from developers as part of their 'planning obligation'.

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Community Infrastructure Levy	H	H	H	H	M	M	CIL is a mechanism/tool to arrange for funds for delivering a range of community infrastructure facilities in the borough. It will have a general positive impact on the community as a whole. It might be considered as an alternative to S106 Planning Obligations.

For translation contact:

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