

Appendix 4 b): Equality Impact Assessment: Pre Screening Stage

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Monday 10 November 2025

Part one: overview of work

Title	Evidence Gathering stage of the Local Development Plan 2	
Activity type (cross all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Change to service	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic decision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)	
Overview of the activity Set out a clear summary of the work being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the wider context within which it will operate (links to the NPPP/Corporate Plan/Annual Operational Plan))	<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory planning document. It is a spatial plan that outlines areas of the National Park suitable for development.</p> <p>The PID outlining the wider aims and strategic links can be found here Project Initiation Document LDP2_V02 31 01 2025.docx</p> <p>This EqlA focuses on the engagement required for preparation of the LDP evidence gathering stage. It does not cover subsequent engagement and consultation through later stages of preparation, nor the management / delivery of the LDP once it is adopted in future years. The EqlAs will be updated / a new one created as relevant for later stages.</p>	
Person completing and responsible for this assessment	Nik Turner	
Others involved in the assessment	The wider LDP team.	

Date of assessment	11.02.25
Date for review (if required)	On an annual cycle in line with when the Participation Statement gets reviewed.

Part two: initial screening

Who is the work likely to impact?	<p>The LDP has a broad and wide-ranging impact as it will outline the opportunities and constraints for development across the National Park. This will cover individuals both living, working and visiting the Park, as well as groups / organisations such as local businesses and developers who may seek to make planning applications for larger developments.</p> <p>Focusing on the engagement required for the Evidence gathering stage, the Scottish Government's statutory guidance is clear in stating that we need to seek and take into account the views of a wide range of people from the public at large, to community councils, through to specific groups such as young people, people with disabilities and Gypsy/Travellers. As such, we will seek to have open and accessible engagement to allow for a wide range of individuals and groups to have their say throughout the process from informal engagement to the statutory consultation.</p>			
Does the work have the potential to impact on the equality groups? Cross appropriate rating for each characteristic		Positive	Neutral	Negative
	Age	X		
	Disability	X		
	Gender reassignment		X	
	Race	X		
	Religion or belief		X	
	Sex		X	
	Sexual orientation		X	
	Pregnancy and maternity		X	
	Marriage/civil partnerships		X	
Summary of foreseen impacts	<p>The LDP should follow the principles outlined within the National Planning Framework 4 and bring the National Park Partnership Plan vision of being a thriving place to live in the National Park. It should therefore seek to improve local places and services through sustainable development, which ultimately aims to create positive general</p>			

	<p>improvements for everyone, including those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Focusing on the evidence gathering phase for this EqlA, positive impacts are anticipated for age (specifically young people), disability and race (specifically Gypsy/Travellers), as we have a requirement to evidence engagement with people sharing these characteristics. This means we will seek out their views, tailoring our engagement approach to their needs, and incorporate this into our Plan preparation.</p> <p>The other protected characteristics have been logged as 'neutral'. However, our engagement will seek to be as inclusive as possible, building upon our previous engagement experience (eg the NPPP) and importantly utilising the best practice guidance outlined by Scottish Government in promoting an open and inclusive engagement in Local Development Planning. Through the Participation Scheme, a requirement in the Development Plan Scheme, we will openly share our plans for engagement and we will also encourage people to shape effective engagement for them throughout the preparation process. This means we may see positive impacts for other protected characteristics as well as intersectional / human rights approach benefits, rather than just neutral.</p>
Does the work have the potential to have wider impact on service users or groups?	As part of our approach to engagement outlined above, we will seek to take an inclusive and open approach to allow for all potential persons or groups impacted by the final LDP to have their say in the Evidence gathering stage.
Is it likely there are significant impacts because of the work? Cross the box that applies.	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: proceed to full assessment in part three </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: provide an explanation of this decision and then proceed to part four </div> <p>We anticipate that our engagement will be inclusive and any impacts should be positive in enhancing opportunity to get involved. This approach should maximize our ability to hear from different protected characteristic groups as well as the wider public at large and others interested in the final LDP.</p> <p>As this EqlA is focused on the engagement required for the LDP evidence gathering stage, we will revisit the EqlA when we move to a later stages of engagement and consultation.</p>

Part three: full assessment: N/A at this stage

Part four: recommendations and sign off

What are your recommendation(s)	Embed the Scottish Government's principles for inclusive engagement into planning and delivery of our
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based on this impact assessment? Provide a meaningful summary of how you have come to this conclusion.	engagement for the evidence gathering stage of the LDP. Maintain the annual review cycle for the Participation Statement which will share and encourage comment on effective and open engagement for all. Review this EqlA in line with this or earlier if required, IE when moving to the next stage of Plan preparation.
Pre-Screening Assessment signed off by:	Susan Brooks Communities and Place Planning Manager Stuart Mearns Director of Place
Sign off date:	29 October 2025 30 October 2025