Shropshire Council Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Stage One Screening Record 2025

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change

Design of Residential Extensions & Alternations Supplementary Planning Document

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Daniel Corden

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (Stage One) ESHIA Only?	Х	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		Χ

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Actions to mitigate likely negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations

Approval from Cabinet is being sought for Shropshire Council to undertake a consultation on a draft Supplementary Planning Document (hereafter SPD) for the design of residential extensions and alterations.

Ahead of the proposed consultation, at this stage, it is anticipated that the equality impacts will be neutral to low positive across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined by the Equality Act 2010.

There is potential for positive equality impact for the groupings of Age, Disability, and Pregnancy and Maternity. Additionally, there is potential for neutral to low positive equality impacts for those in the further groupings for whom the Council seeks to give due regard in its decision-making processes, ie, Other – Social Inclusion, Other – Veterans and Service Members and their families, and Other – Young People Leaving Care, in terms of health and well-being opportunities arising from further guidance on the design considerations and design expectations if they wish to extend or alter residential properties to meet their changing needs and for people in these groupings to feel safer on their journeys for education, healthcare, work or leisure as a result of potential benefits of natural surveillance to public realm.

This is likely to potentially rise to medium positive impact for veterans and service members and their families, should life-changing injuries or illnesses affect their

physical and mental health and well-being and necessitate adjustments to residential properties.

This ESHIA also anticipates the draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD will have positive health impacts, by guiding extensions to provide better natural surveillance of public realm supporting perception of safety and active travel with the associated health and well-being benefits; and enhancing consideration of private amenity space when designing extensions – such space has known health and well-being benefits.

Actions to mitigate likely negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

The draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD identifies key design considerations and sets out design expectations for residential extensions and alterations in Shropshire. From a health and well-being perspective, it is anticipated that the draft SPD will support applicants in preparing planning applications for residential extensions and alterations which achieve a high-quality design.

Such design will provide natural surveillance of public realm, thereby ensuring they are perceived as safe by pedestrians and cyclists. Such modes of active travel have clear health and well-being benefits.

It will also ensure appropriate consideration of private amenity space as part of any extension or alteration scheme, thereby supporting the maintenance and enhancement of private amenity space. Access to appropriate private amenity space has known health and well-being benefits.

Furthermore, there are additional positive impacts in terms of the recognised positive health and well-being associated with the ability to appropriately extend or alter a residential property to meet the needs of the occupier(s). Including alterations allowing an increase in availability of space for additional residents within properties, or accessibility amendments allowing individuals to remain in their homes and outside of the care system for longer, leading to greater independence, and reduction in social isolation from moving away from friends, family and support systems.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

A minimum six week period of public consultation is proposed, likely commencing in October 2025, on the consultation draft of the Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD.

It is envisaged that any issues relating to equality, social inclusion, and health considerations that are raised during the consultation will be reviewed at the end of the consultation process and the draft SPD amended accordingly as necessary. A further ESHIA would be carried out on the final draft of this SPD informed by the proposed public consultations, enabling the Council to factor in feedback from people in the Protected Characteristic groupings and our additional groupings, and feedback in regard to health and well-being impacts, alongside any received in regard to environmental and economic well-being impacts, across all groupings in the community. The follow up ESHIA will also record where responses may have been low from people in particular groupings, warranting further ongoing engagement

The Council will draw upon the learning from pedestrianisation efforts in market towns in Shropshire, which are building upon Covid-19 measures that led to improved physical access around towns by people in Protected Characteristic groupings and those we may describe as vulnerable. The Council will also draw upon strategic policy around public transport infrastructure including Active Travel, and best alignment with economic growth strategy development and with implementation of cultural and leisure strategy actions. These strategies all very much include efforts to promote social inclusion and in so doing achieve equality of opportunity for people in Protected Characteristic groupings to safely access economic, leisure and cultural opportunities in market towns.

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIA's for the Ironbridge Gorge WHS SPD.

ESHIA for the draft Design of New Dwellings SPD.

ESHIA for the draft Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code.

ESHIA's for the Shropshire Local Plan Review.

ESHIA's for the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021 and Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027.

Actions to mitigate likely negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor the overall impacts with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

The draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD identifies key design considerations and sets out design expectations for residential extensions and alterations in Shropshire.

Climate change

The draft SPD would provide guidance and information to support the implementation of policies within the adopted Local Plan, which plans for the long term sustainable development of Shropshire – social, economic and environmental benefits.

Design expectations support resilience and adaptation to our changing climate, with guidance on energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon technologies and water efficiency.

It is therefore considered the draft SPD and associated public consultation and stakeholder engagement is expected to have a positive outcome on the climate change impacts listed below:

- · Energy and fuel consumption (buildings and/or travel).
- Renewable energy generation.
- Carbon offsetting or mitigation.
- · Climate change adaptation.

Economic and societal/wider community

The draft SPD would provide guidance and information to support the implementation of policies within the adopted Local Plan, which plans for the long term sustainable development of Shropshire – social, economic and environmental benefits.

The achievement of a high-quality design of residential extensions and alterations has a key place shaping benefit, providing societal and community benefit.

Public consultation is a key stage in the preparation of an SPD. The activities planned within this report, along with subsequent implementation of the SPD, will be met from existing resources and budgets.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer for the proposed service change	SUF	07/08/2025
Mr Edward West		
Officer carrying out the		
screening	D Corden	07/08/2025
Mr Daniel Corden		
Any external support**		
Phillip Northfield		
(Public Health Integration & Inequalities Officer)	1 Northfeld	28/08/2025
Lois Dale Senior Insights and Research EDI Specialist	Lisis Dule	28/08/2025

^{*}This refers to other officers within the service area

^{**}This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g, the Performance and Research Specialist for Rurality and Equalities, Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, etc.

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Lead officer's name	D Corden	28/08/2025
Mr Daniel Corden		
Service manager's name	-1/	28/08/2025
Mr Edward West	SUF	20/00/2023

^{*}This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer

B. <u>Detailed Screening Assessment</u>

Aims of the service change and description

The aim of the draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD is to provide guidance and information to support the implementation of a policies in the adopted Local Plan.

It will identify key design considerations and sets out design expectations for those parties considering extensions or alterations to dwellings in Shropshire. It will also provide more detailed design considerations for those parties considering residential extensions or alterations to dwellings in Shropshire that are subject to specific constraints or opportunities.

The design considerations addressed within this draft SPD include:

- Appropriately siting extensions.
- Ensuring extensions are proportionate in form and scale.
- Appropriate use of materials, finishes, and fenestration.
- Minimising impacts on neighbouring amenity and character of neighbouring properties.
- Responding to our changing climate.
- Conservation and enhancement of the built and natural environment.

Once adopted, it would be used by Shropshire Council Planning Officers when determining Planning Applications or Permitted Development (PD) 'prior approval' requests for residential extensions and alterations.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD would identify key design considerations and sets out design expectations for all parties considering and involved in construction of extensions or alterations to dwellings in Shropshire. It would also provide planning guidance to all parties interested in and considering commenting on 'live' planning applications for residential extensions or alterations.

Users and stakeholders for the SPD would include:

- Local residents.
- Architects, planners, and the construction industry.
- Town and Parish Councils.
- Statutory Agencies.
- Unitary Authorities (Shropshire Council).
- Local MPs.
- · Government Departments and Agencies.

Once adopted, the SPD would be used by Shropshire Council when determining planning applications for residential extensions or alterations within the Council's administrative area.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

Shropshire Council adopted Development Plan (consisting of the Core Strategy; Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan; and 'made' Neighbourhood Plans).

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Consultation and engagement is a key part of developing a SPD. Subject to Cabinet approval, a minimum 6-week period of public consultation, commencing in October 2025, will be undertaken on the draft Design of Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD.

The consultation process would comply with Shropshire Council's Statement of Community Involvement. It would be supported by a press release and issuing of a notification to relevant parties on the Council's Local Plan consultation database.

The consultation materials would be made available on the Shropshire Council website.

<u>Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below this table)</u>

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact Stage Two ESHIA required	High positive impact Stage One ESHIA required	Medium positive or negative impact Stage One ESHIA required	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) Stage One ESHIA required
Age (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with a disability)				√Low positive
Disability (please include cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)				√Low positive
Gender re- assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√Neutral
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√Low positive
Race (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				√Neutral
Religion or Belief (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				√Neutral
Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√Neutral

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	High negative impact Stage Two ESHIA required	High positive impact Stage One ESHIA required	Medium positive or negative impact Stage One ESHIA required	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) Stage One ESHIA required
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				√Neutral
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities)				√Low positive
Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families				√Low to medium positive
Other: Young people leaving care				√Low positive

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column. Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think

might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact Part Two HIA required	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a direct impact on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?				√Low positive

Will the proposal indirectly impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?		√Low positive – potential access to green space, or alternative work from home arrangements will improve mental wellbeing.
Will the policy have a direct impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health? For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?		√Low positive
Will there be a likely change in demand for or access to health and social care services? For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?		√Neutral – potential reduction in demand if alterations allow individuals to remain in their homes.

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding.

It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes.

These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Stage One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, a Stage One ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the national Protected Characteristic groupings and our additional local categories. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second Stage One ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive.

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called 'due regard' of the needs of people in Protected Characteristic groupings.

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be high negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to take advice on whether or not to carry out a full report, or Stage Two assessment. This is resource intensive but will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Stage Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. <u>Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social</u> Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government. The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIAs) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet or to Strategic Licensing Committee.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions you will take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any likely positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010. The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation.

There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief. We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

For the individuals and groupings who may be affected, ask yourself what impact do you think is likely and what actions will you currently anticipate taking, to mitigate or enhance likely impact of the service change? If you are reducing a service, for example, there may be further use you could make of awareness raising through social media and other channels to reach more people who may be affected.

Social inclusion is then a wider additional local category we use in Shropshire, in order to help us to go beyond the equality legislation in also considering impacts for individuals and households with regard to the circumstances in which they may find themselves across their life stages. This could be households on low incomes, or households facing challenges in accessing services, such as households in rural areas, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as young people leaving care or refugee families.

Please note that the armed forces are now a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under recent Armed Forces legislation, although in practice we have been doing so for a number of years now.

We are now also identifying care leavers as a distinct separate local grouping due to their circumstances as vulnerable individuals.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove or reconfigure a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

Carry out and record your equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.
- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, where we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is a relatively new area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we are asking service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities.

A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

<u>Individuals</u>

Will the proposal have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and well being.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk more, and as there will be reductions in emission leading to better air quality.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and well being of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. Often a health promoting approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further advice: please contact Lois Dale via email <u>lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk</u>, or Phil Northfield via email <u>Phillip.Northfield@shropshire.gov.uk</u>