

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Sevenoaks Town Centre Regeneration Pre Consultation and the next steps

Responsible Officer

Lisa Alexander - DCED INF

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Joanne Taylor - DCED INF

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Strategic and Corporate Services

Responsible Service

Infrastructure

Responsible Head of Service

Joanne Taylor - DCED INF

Responsible Director

Rebecca Spore - DCED INF

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council (KCC) has been engaging with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) regarding the SDC's ambition to regenerate the area to the east of the town centre in Sevenoaks. The project can only continue in its current form in collaboration with KCC as the County Council is a key landowner and stakeholder.

The proposals would involve the relocation of KCC services, including the library function to an alternative new facility and location within a future scheme, which would deliver more efficient and cost-effective buildings for KCC's estate, supporting Framing Kent's Future – Our Council Strategy 2022-2026

SDC's objectives for the regeneration project is: -

- * "To support businesses and education / learning skills, ensuring the town centre remains a hub for communities to use, gather, be creative and socialise in.
- * To ensure buildings are fit for purpose and kinder to the environment, by improving energy efficiency.
- * A new and improved library, art gallery, museum, adult services, learning disability groups and registrar would be located closer to the town centre, making the services easier to access, increasing foot fall to the services.
- * Land released would be ensure the provision of mixed tenure homes, which would include affordable housing, key worker, elderly, which are vital given Green belt covers 93% of the District.

- * The provision of a new hotel and the improvement of the existing services will provide enhanced employment opportunities, which will bring about economic growth to the Sevenoaks District.
- * The existing provisions will remain open until the new provisions have been built, which will enable continuity of service, ensuring that there are no closures.
- * The new facilities will provide improved facilities for both residents and visitors alike.”

A Pre consultation was undertaken at the end of April 2024 to seek the view of residents, businesses, and other stakeholders on the early ideas for delivering improvements to the area east of Sevenoaks High Street (around Buckhurst Land and Suffolk Way).

KCC supports in principle the regeneration of the Sevenoaks Town Centre and the potential relocation of KCC services into new fit for purpose, sustainable and environmentally friendly buildings (which will be at nil cost);

Subject to viability of the proposals being established a future key decision / EqIA and DPIA will need to be taken to support any future decision on the development taking place.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

No

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Focus consultations were held with:-

SDC Ward members (Online) 8th April 10 a.m.

Everyone Active (Leisure centre) staff 10th April 10 a.m.

KCC members briefing (Online) 11th April 3 p.m.

Sevenoaks Town Council 15th April 6 p.m.

Access Group 18th April

Public Realm Commission (online) 19th April at 2.30pm

Knole Estate - National Trust (online) 19th April at 1.00pm

Knole Estate Reps (online) 22nd April at 9.00am

Commercial Tenants (leisure centre) 22nd April 6.00 pm

Buckhurst Avenue Residents (leisure centre) 22nd April 7.30pm

Sevenoaks Mums/ Sevenoaks Women’s Forum (Online) 26th April 12.30

Access Group (online) 18th April 12.30 pm

Chamber of Commerce (leisure centre) 23rd April 10.30 am

Chamber of Commerce networking event) 1st May 12.00 noon

Three Pre Public Consultation events took place at the end of April (24th;27th and 29th) (two were held in person; one was online).

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff Staff/Volunteers
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
In accordance to the Equality Act 2010, which identifies the nine protected characteristics, the future positive impacts of the proposed Sevenoaks High Street Regeneration will be to ensure that there is equality amongst all characteristics, which will ensure that there is equal opportunities for all to have reasonable access to the service provisions, catering for different age groups, disabilities, gender, race etc
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19.Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable

23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable