



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Draft Equality Impact Assessment on Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park.
Date:	10 December 2008
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Relevant Background Information

The Department for Social Development (DSD) has published for consultation a draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the regeneration of Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Park. The draft EQIA consultation period will run from 30 October 2008 until 21 January 2009. The consultation will also include a number of public meetings.

Previously, Council submitted a response to the draft Masterplan for the Crumlin Road/Girdwood Park site. The draft Masterplan generated a total of 908 written responses. DSD published a Summary of Consultation Responses and a final Masterplan for the regeneration of the site will be prepared in due course.

A final EQIA document will be prepared following consideration of the comments received during the consultation process.

Key Issues

The draft EQIA sets out in Section 6 the potential impact of the policy on each of the nine equality categories under the following themes, which, for the purposes of the EQIA, are considered to reflect the needs of the communities as outlined in the draft Masterplan:

- Economic Development (Crumlin Road Gaol Redevelopment/Tourism)
- Leisure
- Mixed Use Development
- Housing Need in North Belfast

- Health (Mater Hospital)
- Education (St Malachy's College)
- Public Realm
- Accessibility – Arc Road
- Accessibility – Car Parking
- Development Sites.

The Department considers that out of a possible 90 categories, five categories may potentially be affected by an adverse or differential impact in regard to three themes. Under all other categories, it is considered that there is no evidence of adverse impact due to this proposal. (A summary of the issues in regard to the five categories are attached as **Appendix 1**).

Appendix 2 presents a draft response outlining Belfast City Council's welcome of the draft EQIA and the measures proposed by the Department to mitigate those categories regarded as likely to be affected by a differential or adverse impact due to the proposals. Some specific issues are also raised.

Recommendations

Members are asked to endorse the contents of the draft response and agree that this goes as the Council's response - attached at appendix 2.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Summary of issues likely to be affected by an adverse or differential impact due to the proposal.

Appendix 2 - Draft BCC response to draft EQIA.

Abbreviations

EQIA – Equality Impact Assessment