

Equalities Analysis in Lambeth

Proposal Title *

Application to re-designate KOV Neighbourhood Forum

Author

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Please provide name of lead author and/or those within project team who may be required to contribute to this assessment

Who will sign off the assessment?

Rob Bristow

Please indicate who will be involved in approving this assessment. This will need to be signed off by the Director

Q1a. What is changing?

Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Neighbourhood Forum (which is generally referred to as 'KOV') was designated as a neighbourhood forum by Lambeth on 13 July 2015 alongside the designation of the Kennington Oval and Vauxhall Neighbourhood Area. The neighbourhood forum designation expired on 13 July 2020.

An application to re-designate Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall Neighbourhood Forum was submitted to Lambeth on 28 September 2020. The application was considered by officers to be valid. The application was publicised by Lambeth for a period of six weeks from 11 January to 22 February 2021 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

A decision on whether to re-designate the neighbourhood forum is now required make a decision about the neighbourhood forum.

A neighbourhood forum must demonstrate that they meet the conditions contained in Section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These conditions are as follows:

1. The neighbourhood forum is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned;
2. Its membership is open to:
 1. Individuals who live in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 2. Individuals who work there, and
 3. Individuals who are elected members of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned;
3. Its membership includes a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom
 1. Lives in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 2. Works there, or
 3. Is an elected member of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned; and
4. It has a written constitution.

The application for the re-designation of the neighbourhood forum contains a list of 21 members which included residents, workers and an elected councillor. Fifteen members were on the original list of 21 members provided when KOV was first designated in 2015.

KOV's application sets out that the neighbourhood forum has over 750 members, and that it has a clear commitment to diversity and inclusivity which is reflected in the constitution of the Forum and in its practice. It also states that members are drawn from across the area, the socio-economic spectrum, and the range of ethnicities, ages, faith groups etc, in this particularly diverse area of inner London.

If designated, the neighbourhood forum will continue to lead on the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for a neighbourhood area. The responsibility for preparing a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) lies with the designated neighbourhood forum, not with the Council. Therefore it will be the responsibility of the forum to ensure that it represents the full range of diverse views and those with protected characteristics within the

designated neighbourhood area.

The Council's duty is to designate the forum, but it has no power over how the forum is run in future. The Council will provide a certain level of support and advice to the forum as it prepares its draft NDP, as set out in Section 3 of the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#).

Once the forum has prepared a draft NDP, this must be submitted to the Council for legal checks, prior to examination by an independent examiner against statutory tests. Following examination and a referendum, if successful, the Council will ultimately have to 'make' the plan via a Cabinet decision. An EqlA of the draft NDP will be required prior to the referendum being held, and on the final NDP prior to the decision to 'make' the plan.

What is the most significant or key change taking place? Can you indicate the type of change in your response (e.g. policy/decision/strategy/ service/procedural/ geographic/procurement etc.) so it is clear what is being equalities assessed? Why is this change happening? What do you aim to achieve? Can you clearly indicate what decision-makers are being asked to take a decision on?

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Q1b. Who will be involved in approving this decision?

Cllr. Matthew Bennett

Who else will be involved in signing-off this decision?

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Q2a. What do we know about the people who will be impacted by this change?

A summary of information demographic information is set out below for Prince's and Oval Wards which together comprise the majority of the KOV neighbourhood area:

- The total resident population is 33,568 (GLA 2018)
- 53% of the population are male and 47% female (GLA 2018)
- 15% of the population are age 0 to 15, 76% are 16 to 64 and 9% are 65 or older.
- 60% of the population are white, 23% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, 7% are Asian/Asian British, 7% are Mixed/multiple ethnic groups and 3% are other ethnic groups (Census 2011)
- 13% of the population have health condition or disability which limits their day-to-day activities (Census 2011)
- The most widely spoken main language is English (spoken by 78% of the population) followed by Portuguese (4%), Spanish (3%) and French (2%) (Census 2011)

The application for re-designation states that members are drawn from across the area, the socio-economic spectrum, and the range of ethnicities, ages and faith groups. Demographic information about the current members of the neighbourhood forum was requested from KOV alongside their application but this was not provided. KOV have stated in their application they have attended a variety of community events and held outreach/community engagement events to ensure that the Forum is representative of the demographic mix of the area. They state that membership from across the socio-economic spectrum is encouraged and described how information and consultation leaflets have been distributed to a range of dwelling types including social housing estates and multi-occupied dwellings.

A total of 116 written representations was received during the publication period for the application, submitted via email or an online form. A further forty-five online forms were submitted that did not include any written comments; these are considered to be incomplete and have not been included in the total. The majority (79%) of representations submitted were wholly in support of the application to re-designate the neighbourhood forum. Ten representations provided no comments or were neutral. Three representations commented on matters that were not related KOV's re-designation application. Eleven responses objected to the re-designation of KOV as a neighbourhood forum or raised some concerns.

Demographic information is available for those that submitted a representation through the online form. This information is not available for those who provided comments by email. Of those who submitted a completed survey form:

- 69% were aged 25 to 64, and 31% were aged 65 or over
- 94% were white, 3% were Black African or Caribbean and 2% were other ethnic groups.
- 48% were female and 48% were male, 4% preferred not to specify
- 97% spoke English as their main language and 2% spoke Portuguese.
- 11% had health problems or disability that limited their day-to-day activities

What does your information tell you about the people who will be affected by this change? Are protected groups impacted? What information do you hold on the protected characteristics of the people affected by the change? (Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, health, socio-economic, language) Are there any gaps or missing information?

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Q2b. How will they be impacted by the change?

KOV's written constitution sets out that "Membership is open to all who live or work in the area or are local elected officials" and that there is a "clear commitment to diversity and inclusivity is reflected in the constitution of the Forum and in its practice." One of its stated objectives is to "Involve local people in shaping and strongly influencing Council and other agencies' policies and programmes having particular regard for the wide diversity of the community in the area served, including the equality categories prioritised by the local authority as follows: race, gender, gender re-assignment, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, socio-economic factors, language and health."

This open membership means that in principle there is potential for the proposal to have a positive impact, because it means a wide range of local people can become more closely involved in local planning issues. However, this will depend on how KOV run the forum and go about preparing the draft NDP. Whilst the Council can provide advice and support, it cannot control this so responsibility for ensuring a positive impact on those with protected characteristics will fall on the KOV forum itself. Therefore, there is some uncertainty over the impact of the re-designation of the KOV neighbourhood forum.

Would you assess the impact as positive, adverse, neutral? Do you have any uncertainty about the impact of your proposal? Is there a likelihood that some people will be more impacted than others? Can you describe the ways in which they will be affected? How might this change affect our 'general duty'?

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Q3a. How do you plan to promote and deliver any positive impacts of the proposal?

KOV have their own website and this will be the principal way to promote the work of the forum, the draft NDP and potential positive impacts of this decision to redesignate them as a neighbourhood planning forum. This will include contact details so that prospective members from the neighbourhood area can contact the neighbourhood forum to find out more about its activities and to become involved.

The council has a neighbourhood planning webpage, which will also include the contact details of one member of the proposed neighbourhood area, and will direct people towards the KOV website. The council's webpage will be updated with information as the neighbourhood plan progresses through the neighbourhood plan-making process.

Once made, the KOV NDP will form part of the statutory development plan for Lambeth and will therefore influence decisions on planning within the area it covers. This will directly promote any positive impacts achieved through the work of KOV.

How might the principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and positive relationships be further promoted as a consequence of this proposal? How do you propose to measure your positive outcomes and the benefits outlined to find out if these have been achieved?

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Q3b How do you plan to address and mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal?

No negative impacts have been identified.

What impact has this evidence had on what you are proposing? What can you do differently that might lessen the impact on people within the timeframes i.e. development-implementation? Who can help you to develop these solutions?

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Q4. How will you review/evaluate your proposal, mitigating actions and/or benefits? Who will be responsible for this?

Measurement of the impact of the KOV designation will be the responsibility of KOV. The Council has no duty or power to influence how the forum conducts its business once it has been designated, other than through its duties around advice and support for preparation of the draft NDP.

An EqlA will be undertaken by the planning policy team on any draft neighbourhood plan produced by the neighbourhood forum prior to the referendum. An EqlA will also be undertaken on the final NDP by the Council prior to decision to make it.

Who will you be accountable to for the above actions/outcome? How will those responsible know these actions have worked? What performance indicators will you use to demonstrate this? Are there any other forms of evidence you can use to support this assessment of their effectiveness?

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Section to be completed by Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Outcome of equality impact assessment

- No adverse impact, no change required
- Low adverse impact, minor adjustment required
- Significant adverse impact, further action required
- Significant impact identified unable to mitigate fully
- Unlawful in/direct discrimination, stop and rethink

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Comments from Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Submit for approval

Submit for approval



Executive Approval

Pending

Attachments

Save

Cancel