

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (EqIAA)

YATE TOWN IMPROVEMENT MASTERPLAN

Please Note:-

This document describes an initial assessment of equalities impacts.

The council has a statutory duty to consider the impact of its actions in relation to the following protected characteristic groups:-

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender Reassignment
4. Marriage and Civil Partnership
5. Pregnancy and Maternity
6. Race
7. Religion or Belief
8. Sex
9. Sexual Orientation

Therefore, the council wishes to hear and proactively consider any comments in relation to how any aspect of the Yate Town Improvement Masterplan may impact on any sections of the community as listed above. Any feedback in relation to equalities will inform a full Equality Impact Assessment and Analysis.

- You can find out more and tell us your views by completing our survey online at www.yatefuture.com
- Email: feedback@yatefuture.com
- Write to: Freepost Plus RTXL-YHGY-GSYS, South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Consultation Team, Council Offices, Badminton Road, Yate, BRISTOL, BS37 5AF
- Phone: 0118 946 7809
- Copies of the consultation are available from
 - South Gloucestershire Council Offices (Badminton Rd, Yate, Bristol, BS37 5AF)
 - Yate One Stop Shop (Kennedy Way, Yate, Bristol, BS37 4DQ)
 - Yate Library (Unit 44, Yate Shopping Centre, W Walk, Yate, Bristol BS37 4AX)
 - One Stop Community Store (Wellington Rd, Yate, Bristol BS37 5UY)

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

South Gloucestershire Council, along with its partners, are preparing a masterplan for Yate, which will set out the long-term vision for improving the town.

At the heart of the masterplan is a whole town approach and a vision of the urban lifestyles and regeneration opportunities around Yate rail station, Station Road, Industrial Estate, and the Town Centre.

The Masterplan aims to offer a compelling vision for the town and key areas, creating a vibrant and connected centre for Yate, that will help to unlock redevelopment and regeneration across the entire town, whilst balancing this against protecting and enhancing Yate's high quality natural and historic environment, and conserving its agricultural and natural hinterland.

The Masterplan aims to create a new and dynamic identity for Yate, which addresses the towns future trajectory over the coming fifteen to twenty years. The objectives for Yate Town Improvement Masterplan respond to and redefine objectives set out in the South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy and the Vision for Yate outlined in its Community Plan.

The whole town approach is a contemporary vision that represents the town's next phase of growth, conditioned by the current context and future proofed in order to properly address the complex challenges that we face and help drive sustainable growth and transport infrastructure investment. We believe it also reflects the desire of all stakeholders to jointly explore opportunities, to identify the catalysts for change, and to meet individual aspirations from a holistic perspective.

The key to unlocking wider and comprehensive regeneration and transformation lies in the four key focus areas that the Masterplan defines; Station Road, Rail Station, Industrial Estate and the Town Centre. The Masterplan defines a specific vision for each area in the belief they will once more prove to be catalysts for change and offers a number of development options that explore potential alternative future scenarios. The evidence base for the different options is being progressed at the time of this report.

The Masterplan also aims to provide the evidence, vision and site-specific detail to inform the council's emerging Local Plan and approach to urban lifestyles. Finally, the purpose of the Masterplan is also to capture feedback and input from Yate residents and the wider community alike, about their ideas of the future of Yate. We have gathered this feedback during targeted stakeholder sessions with key stakeholders, project review sessions with SGC officers and during a period of public engagement during the Autumn of 2020.

All the consultation material and background information relating to this consultation can be found at www.yatefuture.com

SECTION 2 –RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

NB. This section will be updated post consultation.

The regeneration of key areas within Yate including the town centre and the rail station will impact everyone who use these facilities. The protected characteristics most relevant are ‘Age’, ‘Disability’, and ‘Pregnancy & Maternity’, although all protected characteristics are clearly impacted.

Overall, the Masterplan will set an ambitious vision with clear regard for the experiences and needs of all protected characteristic groups. At this stage however, detailed aspects such as design issues and standards, which are often the level of detail that consider the needs of specific groups are not part of the Masterplan – these considerations will follow as projects arising from the master plan are implemented. There is no specific timetable for project implementation at this consultation stage but when the final Masterplan is published more detail on the implementation plan will be provided.

To date, background evidence has been collected and presented in a baseline report; a 6 week public engagement took place in Autumn 2020; and early engagement with groups including with older and disabled residents took place in February 2021. The Autumn 2020 engagement report can be found at www.yatefuture.com. Feedback received during informal engagement has informed this consultation and is summarised below:

What you said	How it has been reflected in the masterplan
Town Centre	
The shopping centre should be updated and have a mix of different uses in both the daytime and evening, including outdoor spaces to meet and more shops, restaurants and leisure facilities.	We have presented three options (see page 10 of the consultation brochure) to transform the town centre into a vibrant mixed-use area, with new public spaces, pedestrian friendly streets and a newly located leisure centre.
The town centre should be easily accessible by car and bus and for people with additional needs.	The options for the town centre see the bus station redesigned as a multi-modal transport interchange providing options for those arriving on foot, by bicycle or by car. There are also options for improved pedestrian crossings and new walking and cycling routes to and within the town centre.
Construction in the town centre needs to be phased and any disruption should be communicated in advance.	Our options for the town centre focus on the long-term future of the town, with a gradual development and transformation over the next 15-20 years. We are not yet at the stage of planning timings for construction, but it will be communicated with the public in advance.
Railway Station and Surrounds	
There is support for having a greater mix of facilities at the railway station and in the surrounding area.	We have presented two options for the railway station and surrounding area (see page 12) to make the station a destination in its own right. Both options have a new station building with facilities, such as shops and places to eat, and space in the area for new residential and commercial buildings.
The railway station should be made more accessible.	Both options for the railway station would improve connections to the station for pedestrians, cyclists, buses and cars, including taxis. The new station buildings would provide accessible access to platforms via lifts, in addition to steps for pedestrians.

The railways station needs to be made safer.	Both options for the railway station would mean that there would be more people in the station throughout the day and evening, and that platforms are more visible from the new station facilities, are well lit and have CCTV.
Industrial Estate	
The masterplan should create space for the next generation of businesses.	The vision for the industrial estate includes space for new businesses, start-ups and co-working. There would be a mix of land use to encourage a range of activities across the industrial estate, such as retail and gyms, to make it a more attractive place to work and socialise.
There is support for carbon neutral and sustainable practices.	The vision for the industrial estate includes access to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, and sustainable waste management and recycling. A new tree-lined boulevard would divert heavy traffic and provide safe pedestrian footpaths. There would also be electric vehicle charging points and a dedicated bus route from the railway station.
Station Road	
Reducing traffic congestion along Station Road.	There is an aspiration in the masterplan to reduce traffic on key routes such as Station Road to enable the reallocation of road space and provide an opportunity for other users and uses (such as cycle lanes, community spaces, climate change mitigation and biodiversity). This would allow residents and local communities to gain back some of the space that has been lost to cars and heavy goods vehicles.
There should be adequate parking for shops and businesses.	The masterplan seeks to find a new off-road parking area for Station Road and free up spaces in front of shops and businesses for spill out spaces and to enable pedestrians and cyclists to easily see into shops.
There is support for improving pedestrian facilities, such as pavements and crossings.	The vision for Station Road includes having adequate space for pedestrians on both sides of the road, including space for buggies and wheelchairs.
Movement	
The frequency of buses, bus links, the location of bus stops and the quality of bus shelters should be improved.	The masterplan seeks opportunities to make trips by bus faster, more convenient and more reliable. It also proposes improvements to bus shelters to provide shelter from the weather with attractive and comfortable seating, as well as the potential to create green roofs to enhance biodiversity.
The availability of cycle lanes and connections for cyclists should be increased.	The Movement Vision for the masterplan (see page 8) seeks to capitalise on Yate's compact size to transform opportunities for cycling trips by providing safe and convenient routes and high-quality cycle parking.

SECTION 3 - IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF EQUALITIES ISSUES AND IMPACTS

NB. This section will be updated post consultation.

The Yate Masterplan sets a long term vision for the regeneration of Yate including a movement vision and spatial options for four focus areas of the town – the rail station, the industrial area, Station Road and the town centre. The regeneration of the focus areas within Yate will impact everyone who use these facilities.

Key equalities issues that have been considered in setting the vision and options include safety and accessibility. The Masterplan should ensure everybody, regardless of protected characteristics, can get to where they need to and move around conveniently and safely. Specific issues considered through the engagement to date are set out in the table in section 2 above.

Once this consultation is completed the final Masterplan will be published alongside an implementation plan. Clear opportunity for individuals and groups representing the needs and requirements in relation to protected characteristics will have a say as progress is made through planning, design and implementation stages of the Masterplan.

SECTION 4 - EqIAA OUTCOME

NB. This section will be completed post consultation.

Outcome	Response	Reason(s) and Justification
Outcome 1: No major change required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers or to better promote equality have been identified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outcome 4: Stop and rethink.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 5 - ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS EqIAA

To conduct a formal consultation for 12 weeks beginning 21 June 2021 and update this EqIAA as a result.

SECTION 6 - EVIDENCE INFORMING THIS EqIAA

Yate Baseline report (March 2020)

Yate Town Improvement Masterplan, Autumn 2020 Engagement Output Report (December 2020)

Yate Vision and Options report (May 2021)