


# Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Screening Form – V2 Template – November 2024

A successful EQIA screening will look at 5 key areas:

1. **Identify the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option to be assessed.**  
A clear definition of what is being screened and its aims.
2. **Gathering Evidence and Stakeholder Engagement**  
Collect data to evidence the type of barriers people face to accessing services (research, consultations, complaints and/or consult with equality groups).
3. **Assessment and Differential Impacts**  
Reaching an informed decision on whether or not there is a differential impact on equality groups, and at what level.
4. **Outcomes, Action and Public Reporting**  
Develop an action plan to make changes where a negative impact has been assessed. Ensure that both the assessment outcomes and the actions taken to address negative impacts are publicly reported.
5. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**  
Stating how you will monitor and evaluate the **Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option** to ensure that you are continuing to achieve the expected outcomes for all groups.

## Section 1: Identify the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option

<b>Name of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option to be screened</b>	<b>Validation of planning applications</b>
<b>Reason for change in Policy or Policy Development</b>	<b>Paperless and enterprise system, amended local list detailing requirements for applications</b>
<b>List main outcome focus and supporting activities of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option</b>	<b>Validation of new planning applications in accordance with legislation in the Town and County Planning Act and secondary legislation such as the Development Management Procedure Order 2015. The process Involves checking the application prior to determination:</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• checking constraints/history of a site,</li> <li>• national and local list requirements,</li> <li>• Plans, forms and documents for accuracy (not quality)</li> <li>• Correct fees have been received</li> <li>• Correspondence with agents and applicants</li> <li>• Registering onto the back-office system (ldox uniform)</li> <li>• Indexing onto the Document management system (DMS) which acts as the application file, with some information being published onto 'Public access', a web site for viewing planning applications and the on-line planning register.</li> <li>• The procedure is subject to local performance monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Name of officer completing assessment (signed and date)</b>	Emma Nasta Jan 2025
<b>Assessment verified by (signed and date)</b>	 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025

**If applicable, please provide further details about the name and description of policy being analysed**

*Briefly summarise the policy including any key information such as aims, context etc; note timescales and milestones for new policies; use plain language – NO JARGON; refer to other documents if required*

**Objective:**

**To ensure a valid application that can be accurately described, with all requirements met so that it can be determined by a planning officer**

## Section 2: Gathering Evidence and Stakeholder Engagement

The best approach to find out if a policy, etc. is likely to impact positively or negatively on equality groups is to look at existing research, previous consultation recommendations, studies or consult with representatives of those groups. You should list below any data, consultations (previous relevant or future planned), or any relevant research or analysis that supports the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option being undertaken.

**Reminder** – protected characteristics include age, disability, race and/or ethnicity, religion or belief (including lack of belief), gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

Name any research, data, consultation or studies referred to for this assessment	State if this reference refers to one or more of the protected characteristics	Do you intend to set up your own consultation? If so, please list the main issues that you wish to address if the consultation is planned; or if consultation has been completed, please note the outcome(s) of consultation.
<p><b>Stakeholders:</b>  <b>The planning officers</b>  <b>Planning compliance officers</b>  <b>Conservation and Tree officers</b>  <b>General public</b>  <b>Elected Members</b>  <b>Internal consultees</b>  <b>External consultees (i.e. highways)</b>  <b>Applicants and agents</b>  <b>Other internal services such as Environmental Health</b></p> <p><b>Analysis:</b>  <b>Requirements are mainly governed by legislation and local requirements.</b></p>		No

<p><b>Agents and applicants can correspond with the team by a variety of channels – email, letter, planning portal, telephone or in person</b></p> <p><b>Applications can be received in paper or electronic format not impacting the customers choice</b></p> <p><b>Applicants can use the services of an agent</b></p> <p><b>Advice and guidance will be offered to those that require it.</b></p> <p><b>Information is available in paper or electronic format</b></p> <p><b>Consultees and neighbours are identified and consulted on new applications, as per legislation and the statement of community involvement. Site notices are erected for those that cannot be identified to consult.</b></p> <p><b>Personal sensitive data received with applications or received by way of a consultee/neighbour comment is redacted and not published.</b></p> <p><b>Processes have been reviewed by the transformation project</b></p> <p><b>Consultation on new local list.</b></p>		
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**General letter to agents regarding changes in the service from HOS.**

**Language line, AA global are available for those that require it.**

**Monitoring:**

**There are regular agents forums where agents can feedback on any process.**

**Customer feedback is via correspondence and complaints**

**Local performance stats are reported to CMT**

**If applicable, please provide further Information about stakeholder engagement or detail used for customer analysis**

*Note relevant consultation; who took part and key findings; refer to, or attach other documents if needed; include dates where possible*

### Section 3: Assessment and Differential Impacts

Use the table below to provide some narrative where you think the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option has either a positive impact (contributes to promoting equality or improving relations within an equality group) or a negative impact (could disadvantage them) and note the reason for the change in policy or the reason for policy development, based on the evidence you have collated.

Please note that:

- a Positive Impact could benefit an equality group and a negative impact could disadvantage an equality group
- for reasons of brevity race is not an exhaustive list – please edit the list if appropriate to reflect the complexity of other racial identities
- a definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 is available on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk)
- there are too many faith groups to provide a list, therefore, please input the faith group e.g., Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Hindus, etc. Consider the different faith groups individually when considering positive or negative impacts

Protected Characteristic	Specific Characteristics	Positive Impact	Neutral	Negative Impact	Socio Economic/Human Rights Impacts
Sex or Gender	Women		X		
	Men		X		
	Transgender		X		
Race	White		X		
	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups		X		
	Asian		X		
	African		X		
	Caribbean or Black Other Ethnic Group		X		
Disability	Physical disability		X		
	Sensory Impairment (e.g. sight, hearing)		X		
	Mental health		X		
	Learning disability		X		

Protected Characteristic	Specific Characteristics	Positive Impact	Neutral	Negative Impact	Socio Economic/Human Rights Impacts
LGBT	Lesbians		X		
	Gay Men		X		
	Bisexual		X		
Age	Older people (60+)		X		
	Younger people (18-25)		X		
	Children (0-16)		X		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Women		X		
	Men		X		
	Lesbians		X		
Pregnancy and Maternity	Women		X		
Religion and belief	See below		X		

Summary of Protected Characteristics most impacted	<b>No known impact.</b>
Summary of Socio-Economic impacts	<b>No known impact.</b>
Summary of Human Rights impacts	<b>No known impact.</b>
Summary Explanation of the scoring against the protected characteristics	<b>See below</b>

## Section 4: Outcomes, Actions and Public Reporting

Screening Outcome	Yes, No or not at this stage
Was a significant level of negative impact arising from the project, policy or strategy identified?	No
Does the project, policy or strategy require to be amended to have a positive impact?	No
Does a Full Impact Assessment need to be undertaken?	No

**If applicable, please state the overall outcome of the assessment, impacts and customer analysis**

**Outcome(s) of customer analysis**

**Legislation dictates most processes**  
**Customers can access service via variety of channels, paperless does not affect this ability**  
**Information can be submitted in paper or electronic format**  
**Information is available in different formats**  
**Advice and guidance are available if required**  
**Sensitive personal information is not published**  
**Options are available such as language line**  
**Feedback from correspondence is considered**  
**Feedback from local list consultation considered**  
**Process is not targeted towards any specific protected groups.**  
**No apparent discrimination against a protected group**



## Section 5: Monitoring outcomes, evaluation and review

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) screening is not an end in itself but the start of a continuous monitoring and review process. The relevant Service responsible for the delivery of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option, is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the EQIA Screening and any actions that may have been taken to mitigate impacts.

Arrangements for Monitoring	<b>Comments from Agents forum or correspondence</b> <b>Monthly monitoring of performance</b> <b>Tech team comments</b> <b>Transformation team</b> <b>Correspondence and complaints</b>
Timing of the current review	Jan 2025
Next scheduled review	Jan 2026

**If applicable, please provide details of the arrangements for future monitoring:**  
*Note when analysis will be reviewed; include any equality indicators and performance against those indicators*

**Comments from Agents forum or correspondence**  
**Monthly monitoring of performance**  
**Tech team comments**  
**Transformation team**  
**Correspondence and complaints**

**If applicable, please provide details of any supporting data/ research linked to monitoring arrangements (both FDC & Partners):**



## Legislation

### **Equality Act (2010) – the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties)**

The 2010 Act consolidated previous equalities legislation to protect people from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, being a transsexual person (transsexuality is where someone is changed, is changing or has proposed changing their sex – called ‘gender reassignment’ in law), sexual orientation (whether being lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual), disability (or because of something connected with their disability), religion or belief, having just had a baby or being pregnant, being married or in a civil partnership and age.