

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EQIA): SCREENING FORM

Introduction to the EQIA screening process

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 & 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 & 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 & 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 publically reported

5. Monitoring, Evaluation & 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.

1. IDENTIFY THE POLICY, PROJECT, SERVICE REFORM OR BUDGET OPTION:

a) Name of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option to be screened

Provision of Bill Payment Services – Contract Re-Tender

b) Reason for Change in Policy or Policy Development

No change to policy - contract re-tender and award is in line with the council's standard procurement requirements

c) List main outcome focus and supporting activities of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option

The contract covers the provision of services to ensure our customers can continue to make payments at Post Office, Payzone and PayPoint outlets across the city. This includes payment for council tax, non-domestic rates, fees, penalties and charges.

d) Name of officer completing assessment (signed and date)

Moira Carrigan 7th February 2020

e) Assessment Verified by (signed and date)

Fiona Brannan 14th February 2020

2. GATHERING EVIDENCE & 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.

Please name any research, data, consultation or studies referred to for this assessment:	Please state if this reference refers to one or more of the protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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, 	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.
Consideration of the number of Post Office, Payzone and PayPoint outlets across the city to ensure we maximise accessibility for our citizens.	Age, disability	N/a

3. ASSESSMENT & 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.

Protected Characteristic	Specific Characteristics	Positive Impact (it could benefit an equality group)	Negative Impact – (it could disadvantage an equality group)	Socio Economic / Human Rights Impacts
SEX/ GENDER	Women	Positive impact on all groups as continues to provide access to payment outlets within local areas and out with office hours to ensure we maximise accessibility for our citizens.		
	Men			
	Transgender			
RACE*	White			
<i>Further information on the breakdown below each of these headings, as per census, is available here. For example Asian includes Chinese, Pakistani and Indian etc</i>	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups			
	Asian			
	African			
	Caribbean or Black			
	Other Ethnic Group			
DISABILITY	Physical disability	This contract supports customer access to payment outlets within local areas		
<i>A definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 is available here.</i>	Sensory Impairment (sight, hearing,)			
	Mental Health			

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	Learning Disability			
LGBT	Lesbians			
	Gay Men			
	Bisexual			
AGE	Older People (60 +)	This contract supports customer access to payment outlets within local areas		
	Younger People (16-25)			
	Children (0-16)			
MARRIAGE & CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	Women			
	Men			
	Lesbians			
	Gay Men			
PREGNANCY & MATERNITY	Women			
RELIGION & BELIEF** A list of religions used in the census is available here .	See note			

* For reasons of brevity

race is not an exhaustive list, and therefore please feel free to augment the list above where appropriate; to reflect the complexity of other racial identities.

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** 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. A list of religions used in the census is available [here](#).

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Summary of Protected Characteristics Most Impacted

Positive impact for disabled and older people offering access to payment services in their local area if they do not wish to transact with the council by digital means (online, telephone).

Summary of Socio Economic Impacts

N/a

Summary of Human Rights Impacts

N/a

4. OUTCOMES, ACTION & 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

<p style="text-align: center;">Actions: Next Steps</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(i.e. is there a strategic group that can monitor any future actions)</p>		
Further Action Required/ Action To Be Undertaken	Lead Officer and/or Lead Strategic Group	Timescale for Resolution of Negative Impact (s) / Delivery of Positive Impact (s)
No Further Action		

Public Reporting

All completed EQIA Screenings are required to be publically available on the [Council EQIA Webpage](#) once they have been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group. (See [EQIA Guidance](#): Pgs. 11-12)

5. MONITORING OUTCOMES, EVALUATION & 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 Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group 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 take to mitigate impacts.

Individual services are responsible for conducting the impact assessment for their area, staff from **Corporate Strategic Policy and Planning** will be available to provide support and guidance.

Legislation**Equality Act (2010) - the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Scotland Regulations 2012**

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 has 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.

Further information: [Equality Act Guidance](#)

As noted the Equality Act 2010 simplifies the current laws and puts them all together in one piece of legislation. In addition the **Specific Duties (Scotland Regulations 2012)** require local authorities to do the following to enable better performance of the general equality duty:

- report progress on mainstreaming the general equality duty
- publish equality outcomes and report progress in meeting those
- impact assess new or revised policies and practices as well as making arrangements to review existing policies and practices
- gather, use and publish employee information
- publish gender pay gap information and an equal pay statement
- consider adding equality award criteria and contract conditions in public procurement exercises.

Further information: [Understanding Scottish Specific Public Sector Equality Duties](#)

Fairer Scotland Duty

Authorities should also consider Socio-Economic Impacts where appropriate. Further information: [Fairer Scotland Duty Interim Guidance](#)

Enforcement

Judicial review of an authority can be taken by any person, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) or a group of people, with an interest, in respect of alleged failure to comply with the general equality duty. Only the EHRC can enforce the specific duties. A failure to comply with the specific duties may however be used as evidence of a failure to comply with the general duty.