

Appendix C

Equality Impact Assessment – Sex Establishment Policy Licensing Committee 23 July 2013

Introduction

This Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) relates to the proposed adoption of a policy for licensing sex establishments (sexual entertainment venues [SEV], sex cinemas and sex shops).

Broad affects of policy

The policy introduces a limit on the number of such premises, and proposes that there is no locality within Exeter that is appropriate for either a SEV or sex cinema. It goes on to establish a limit of one sex shop in each of two localities within the city centre.

It also introduces regulations to control the management, supervision and design of such premises, and allows additional conditions to be fashioned by the Council dealing with any application, variation, renewal or review.

Impact on target equality groups

In terms of gender, the policy has a positive impact by helping to protect women living or working in or visiting the vicinity of sex establishments by diminishing the impact that SEVs are permitted to have on their surroundings, e.g. through limiting their numbers and controlling the external appearance, advertising and solicitation associated with such premises.

The Council recognises that a nil per locality policy may reduce the employment opportunities for performers. However, it also recognises that those working in SEVs are often peripatetic and self-employed, and so will retain the opportunity to find employment as performers at other venues or in other roles in the leisure industry. The Council believes that, on clear balance, in gender equality terms, its policy is both supportable and correct.

The policy holds that sex establishments are inappropriate near to particular sensitive uses, including schools, places of worship, family leisure facilities, residential dwellings, historic buildings, youth facilities and cultural facilities. For this reason the policy is deemed to have a positive impact upon younger people and children, faith groups and minority faiths groups.

The policy has a positive impact on disabled people as all parts of any premises open to the public shall be accessible to disabled people save for WC facilities where there are separate WC facilities specially designed for use by disabled people.

The policy is deemed to have a neutral impact on the following groups – men, transgender, all races, lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, older people and those of no faith.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this policy is not deemed to have a negative impact on any target equality group. It is deemed to have a positive impact on a number of groups, but this positive impact is not deemed to be high.

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