

Environmental Health and Licensing Statutory Service Plan Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Environmental Health and Licensing Statutory Service Plan 2019/20 forms the basis of the business regulation enforcement functions for the authority and ensures that national food safety, health and safety, environmental protection, community safety, private sector housing and licensing priorities are addressed along with locally identified needs. It demonstrates our commitment to improving public safety, health and environment outcomes, sets out our priorities and planned interventions for the current year and targets them to maximise their impact.

Exeter City Council has a duty to act as an enforcing authority in premises for which it is responsible. The plan outlines how the Environmental Health and Licensing will undertake that function.

It has been produced to ensure that local businesses, landlords, employers and employees, members of the public, council officers and Members understand the approach to regulatory enforcement adopted by the Council. The service plan will help to ensure that the actions of the Council are fair, consistent, open and effective.

The Council recognises the important role it plays promoting and securing the safety and health of those who live, work and visit the City. The key aim of this plan is to demonstrate how the Council will fulfil its statutory obligations in accordance with national guidance set out by the respective regulatory agencies. It includes:

- the Council's aim and objectives;
- information about the enforcement services provided by the Council;
- details of the Council's performance management systems;
- information on the performance of Environmental Health and Licensing.

Lead officer: Simon Lane, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager

Service Manager: Simon Lane, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager

Stakeholders: Residents, Partner Agencies, Voluntary Sector Organisations, Elected Members, Property Owners, Businesses, employees and visitors to the city

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Protected characteristic/ area of interest Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this characteristic.		
Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This can include mental health conditions, long term illnesses such as cancer and HIV, cognitive issues, learning disabilities and sensory impairments)		The Service Plan applies equally to all residents of Exeter irrespective of disability. Our service does seek to positively support those with disabilities through disabled facilities grants, ensuring adequate provision through licensing, and through ensuring safe workplaces	Private Hire and Hackney Drivers are required to pass a medical test to show their ability to drive safely. This will prevent some people becoming drivers.
Sex/Gender	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this		

	characteristic.		
Gender reassignment	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this characteristic.		
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions)	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this characteristic.		
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this characteristic.		
Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).		<p>Nuisance, Anti-Social Behaviour and Empty properties negatively affect all age groups, so therefore proportionate intervention and education where necessary will be used.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grants, loans and other grants will be available for all to reduce hospital admissions, hazards and fuel poverty.</p> <p>Reducing Category 1 Hazards in properties will particular benefit children and young people and older people who are statistically higher of accidents as a result of such hazards.</p>	

Community relations		We believe that this service plan will have a positive impact communities that are improved as a result of our intervention.	
Human Rights	There is no evidence to suggest that the strategy would have a potential impact on this characteristic.		
<u>Actions identified as a result of the impact assessment (these should be SMART):</u>			
Action	Lead	By when	

Equality Impact Assessment Report Questions checklist	
1.	Describe the piece of work you are assessing and the reason it is being carried out. Are you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making a strategic budget proposal ○ Developing a new policy, strategy or project ○ Reviewing and revising a policy, strategy or project ○ Reviewing a function or a service ○ Restructuring a service. Include any options appraisal and if you have a preferred option explain why.
2.	What are the timescales for completing the work? What committee deadlines do you have to meet?
3.	What are the aims and objectives of the work? How do these link to wider council or strategic objectives.
4.	Who will be the main beneficiaries of the piece of work and in what way? All people in Exeter? Council staff? A specific stakeholder group? A combination of these?
5.	What data do you have on how different groups would be affected by the work?
6.	What research studies or reports have been carried out in other areas of the country or nationally that provide information about the

	likely impact of your work on equality groups?
7.	What consultation has taken place or is planned with customers (individuals and groups) from equality groups?
8.	What does the consultation indicate about any differential positive or negative impact(s) of this piece of work?
9.	If there are gaps in your previous or planned consultation and research are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to get further views or evidence on the issues? If so please explain who they are and how you will obtain their views.
10.	If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact Legal; Intended; of high or low impact?
11.	If you identified any negative impact that is of low significance, can you minimise or remove it? If so how?
12.	Could you improve the strategy/policy/project's positive impact and if so how?
13.	How do you intend to continue monitoring the impact of this strategy/policy/project?
14.	If there are gaps in your evidence base, do you need to carry out any further research about the likely impact of your work on equality groups?
	There might be a time delay here as you will need to get the results of your consultation before you can continue working your way through the questions.
15.	As a result of this assessment and available evidence collected, including consultation, what if any changes do you need to make to the strategy/policy/project?
16.	Will the changes planned ensure that the negative impact is: Legal; Intended; of low impact?
17.	What monitoring/evaluation/review process have you set up to check the successful implementation of the strategy/policy/project?
18.	How will this monitoring/evaluation further assess the impact on the equality groups/ensure the strategy/policy/project is non-discriminatory?
19.	Please provide an action plan showing any recommendations that have arisen from the assessment and how you plan to take them forward. Are your actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based).

20.	When will you next review this work and the impact assessment?
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