

Equality Impact Assessment: Local Validation List (June 2022)

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty, authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Executive 5 July 2022	Local Validation List	That Executive formally adopts the final Local List	Gypsies and travellers, migrant workers, asylum seekers, people with disabilities and age related conditions could potentially be impacted, albeit the impacts are low, both positive and negative and can be mitigated.

The assessment

For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. 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

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive, Negative or Neutral Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Negative	Low	The Local List will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the statutory requirements meaning it may not be easily accessible to people with limited access to the internet, although information on applying for planning permission is currently published in this way. This is legislation led. Hard copies of the document could be made available to people on a request basis, which could be collected by hand or posted.
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 impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	Positive	Low	The Local List has been written in accordance with the accessible documents guide. It brings together the national and local requirements for planning applications from various pieces of Government legislation and best practice, making it easier to find out the requirements. However, the impact is low because this information is already available on the internet.
Sex/Gender	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List would have a potential impact on this characteristic.
Gender reassignment	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List would have a potential impact on this characteristic.
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List would have a potential impact on this characteristic.

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive, Negative or Neutral Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
as Buddhism and sects within religions).			
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List 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).	Negative	Low	Planning applications are generally submitted by adults, some of whom are older people who may have age related conditions. Older people and adults with age related conditions might have limited access to the internet and/or may find the document confusing. The impact is considered low because the Local List does not make a significant change to the current situation whereby the process of submitting planning applications may already seem confusing to people with these characteristics and the place where most information can be found in this respect is the internet. In addition, the document aims to be a 'one-stop-shop' for finding out how to submit planning applications and what information is needed, which is also a positive impact.
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List would have a potential impact on this characteristic.
Marriage and civil partnership status	Neutral		There is no evidence to suggest that the Local List would have a potential impact on this characteristic.

Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion

Whilst the Local List brings a lot of information into one place in an attempt to simplify the process of submitting planning applications, it is understood that it may still be confusing to some user groups and difficult to access. To mitigate the former, it is intended to make improvements to the Planning Services web page on the Council's website to support these groups, for example by producing user guides for the more common application types. In regard to the latter, a number of copies of the document will be printed on A4 and A3, and made available to members of the public upon request who do not have, or have difficulty using, the internet.

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Date: 9 June 2022