

Equality Impact Assessment: Investment Approval for New Solar PV Sites

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:
Council December 2025	Investment Approval for New Solar PV Sites	<p>Council approves a budget of £1,029,500 for the installation of new solar PV arrays on City Council owned buildings.</p> <p>Council notes, that the proposal in respect of Senate Court will be</p>	

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
		considered in the office relocation report at Council January 2026.	

Factors to consider in 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**. This must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. 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 or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Negative	medium	To support prevention of state-imposed forced labour, including solar panel supply chains in China, the procurement of solar panels will ensure products purchased are resilient, sustainable and free from forced labour.
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	High	Renewable energy provides carbon savings and reduced energy bills, supporting sustainable services provided by the Council which in turn support positive mental health & wellbeing for individuals.

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Sex/Gender	Neutral	Low	N/A
Gender reassignment			N/A
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).			N/A
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).			N/A
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).	Positive	High	Delivering Net Zero across the city is likely to be embraced by people who live, study, work and socialise in Exeter. The installation of renewable energy projects demonstrates good practice and leadership to communities. It will encourage residents to take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change and benefit from renewable energy. In addition, children in education can learn from action taken locally, and the opportunities for mitigation of climate change.
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers			N/A
Marriage and civil partnership status			N/A

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

Officer: Jo Pearce

Date: 26 November 2025