

Equality Impact Analysis Initial Screening Tool with Guidance

Overview

This Tool has been produced to help you analyse the likelihood of impacts on the protected characteristics – including where people are represented in more than one – with regard to your new or proposed policy, strategy, function, project or activity. It has been updated to reflect the new public sector equality duty and should be used for decisions from 5th April 2011 onwards. It is designed to help you determine whether you may need to do a Full EIA. If you already know that your decision is likely to be of high relevance to equality, and/or be of high public interest, you should contact the Opportunities Manager, as s/he may recommend moving directly to a Full EIA.

General points

1. 'Due regard' means the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances. In the case of controversial matters such as service closures or reductions, considerable thought will need to be given the equalities aspects.
2. Wherever appropriate, and in all cases likely to be controversial, the outcome of the EIA needs to be summarised in the Cabinet/Cabinet Member report and equalities issues dealt with and cross referenced as appropriate within the report.
3. Equalities duties are fertile ground for litigation and a failure to deal with them properly can result in considerable delay, expense and reputational damage.
4. Where dealing with obvious equalities issues e.g. changing services to disabled people/children, take care not to lose sight of other less obvious issues for other protected groups.

Timing, and sources of help

Case law has established that having due regard means analysing the impact, and using this to inform decisions, thus demonstrating a conscious approach and state of mind ([2008] EWHC 3158 (Admin), [here](#)). It has also established that due regard cannot be demonstrated after the decision has been taken. Your EIA should be considered at the outset and throughout the development of your proposal, through to the recommendation for decision. It should demonstrably inform, and be made available when the decision that is recommended. This tool contains guidance, and you can also access guidance from the EHRC [here](#). If you are analysing the impact of a budgetary decision, you can find EHRC guidance [here](#). Advice and guidance can be accessed from the Opportunities Manager: PEIA@lbhf.gov.uk or ext 3430.

Initial Screening Equality Impact Analysis Tool

Section 01	Details of Initial Equality Impact Screening Analysis
Financial Year and Quarter	2012-13, All quarters
Name of policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme	Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy 2011/12 – 2014/15 This is an existing strategy which is updated annually
Q1 What are you looking to achieve?	This report sets out the budget strategy for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA from 2012/13 to 2016/17 with detailed revenue estimates and proposed rental and other charge increases. The proposed budget strategy addresses the reform of the housing subsidy system, and the strategic financial objectives of the HRA including the need to develop an approach to asset management to allow for investment needs to be met and to ensure a sustainable HRA. Also included are proposals for efficiency savings and budget growth in line with the HRA MTFS Transformation programme.
Q2 Who in the main will benefit?	<p>Analyse the impact of the policy on the protected characteristics (including where people / groups may be in more than one protected characteristic). You should use this to determine whether the policy will have a positive/neutral/negative impact and whether it is of low/medium/high relevance to equality.</p> <p>You should also use this section when your policy may not be relevant to one or more protected characteristics. If this applies, case law has established that you must give your reasoning. It is not sufficient to state 'N/A' without saying why.</p> <p>Information: protected characteristics and PSED The public sector equality duty (PSED) states that in the exercise of our functions, we must have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; ▪ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and ▪ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. <p>Having due regard for advancing equality involves:</p>

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people; and
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low

The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favourably than others.

Age	<p>The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants regardless of age, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on people of or approaching retirement age or who have just started work as they may be more likely to be on a lower income level. This disadvantage will be minimised by using our in-house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>	M	-
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	Disability	<p>The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on disabled people as their income levels tend to be lower than the general population. This disadvantage will be minimised by using our in house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>	M	-
	Gender reassignment	<p>The budget strategy is not expected to impact disproportionately on this group</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the</p>	M	-

		increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs		
	Marriage and Civil Partnership	<p>The budget strategy is not expected to impact disproportionately on this group</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>	L	-
	Pregnancy and maternity	<p>The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on this group which may be more likely to have a lower income level especially if on maternity leave however if such a disadvantage arose due to income levels it will be minimised by using our in house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can</p>	M	-

		continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs		
	Race	<p>The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on this group if one ethnicity is highly represented in council accommodation compared to H&F demographics, then it is likely that they may be disproportionately impacted by this change. However if such a disadvantage arose due to income levels it will be minimised by using our in house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>	M	-
	Religion/belief (including non-belief)	The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on this group if one religion or belief is highly represented in council accommodation compared to H&F demographics, then it is likely that they may be disproportionately	M	-

		<p>impacted by this change. However if such a disadvantage arose due to income levels it will be minimised by using our in house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>		
	Sex	<p>The implementation of the budget strategy will impact on all tenants, though there is a risk of a disproportionate impact on this group given women, particularly single women, tend to be over represented in Council stock and tend to have a lower income. It is likely that they may be disproportionately impacted by this change. However if such a disadvantage arose due to income levels it will be minimised by using our in house Welfare Benefits Advisor who provides advice to tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. The Welfare Benefits Advisor provides a joined up service acting as a bridge to other departments to enable tenants to claim their benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability</p>	M	-

		<p>and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>		
	Sexual Orientation	<p>The budget strategy is not expected to impact disproportionately on this group</p> <p>The department's resident involvement strategy which is currently being consulted on will increase the diversity of tenants feeding into a two-way process of continuous improvement in services, ensuring accountability and value for money.</p> <p>Following HRA reform the Council has to support the costs of the housing stock from the income it generates. The income generated by the increase in rents and other charges is required in order to ensure the Council can continue to fund the routine maintenance necessary for residents to continue to live in safe and secure environments. Additionally, despite the increase, the rents will remain below that of the other central west London boroughs</p>	L	-
<p>Human Rights and Children's Rights</p> <p>Will it affect Human Rights, as defined by the Human Rights Act 1998?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Will it affect Children's Rights, as defined by the UNCRC (1992)?</p> <p>No</p>				
Q3 Does the policy, strategy,	Yes			

function, project, activity, or programme make a positive contribution to equalities?	The financial strategy is should ultimately enable the Council to invest more money in housing and regeneration, thereby developing mixed communities creating more equality of opportunity by moving tenants from an environment of multiple deprivation into supported mixed community with improved opportunities
Q4 Does the policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme actually or potentially contribute to or hinder equality of opportunity, and/or adversely impact human rights?	No

Initial Screening Equality Impact Analysis Guidance

Section 01	Details of Initial Equalities Impact Screening Analysis
Name of policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme	<p>A Policy refers to an approved decision, principle plan or a set of procedures by Cabinet, or a Cabinet Member under delegated powers that affects the way that the Council conducts its business both internally and externally. A policy can include: strategies, guides, manuals and common practice.</p> <p>A Strategy refers to a systematic short term or a long term plan of action that is designed to achieve a specific business benefit or goal(s).</p> <p>A Function refers to any actions and/or activities designed to achieve a specific business benefit or goal.</p> <p>A Project defines how a temporary structure or scheme can achieve a specific business benefit or goal(s). A project can be implemented by setting up aims and objectives, resources, communication, budget needs and timelines.</p> <p>An Activity is a specific task (or a groups of tasks) which can also form as part of a 'function'.</p> <p>A Programme is a portfolio of activities and projects that are co-ordinated and managed as a unit such that they realise common outcomes and benefits.</p>

<p>Q1 What are you looking to achieve?</p>	<p>For example this might help to implement outcomes identified in policies such as the Single Equality Scheme, Disability Equality Scheme, other EIAs in your service department, or in another department that your service/service users also interact with and draw down services from, Corporate Plan, LAA Targets, CAA Aims, UDP, or JSNA.</p>
<p>Q2 Who in the main will benefit?</p>	<p>Hereafter, 'policy' means policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme</p> <p>Disability Service providers also have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. These two duties frequently overlap and it is sensible to consider them together. For example, can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide accessible communications? ▪ Change how you collate and use data? ▪ Revise how you involve service users? <p>Analyse the impact of the policy on the protected characteristics with due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.</p> <p>Use your reasoning in order to determine whether the policy will be of high, medium or low relevance to the protected characteristics. What do we mean by these terms?:</p> <p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme is relevant to all or most parts of the general duty, and/or to human rights ▪ There is substantial or a fair amount of evidence that some groups are (or could be) differently affected by it ▪ There is substantial or a fair amount of public concern about it <p>Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme is relevant to most parts of the general duty, and/or to human rights ▪ There is some evidence that some groups are (or could be) differently affected by it ▪ There is some public concern about it <p>Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme is not generally relevant to most parts of the

general duty, and/or to human rights

- There is little evidence that some groups are (or could be) differently affected by it
- There is little public concern about it

Use your reasoning to determine whether the impact will be positive, neutral, or negative. There are three possible outcomes:

- **Positive:** The EIA shows the policy is not likely to result in adverse impact for any protected characteristic and does advance equality of opportunity, and/or fulfils PSED in another way
- **Neutral:** The EIA shows the policy, strategy, function, project or activity is not likely to result in adverse impact for any protected characteristic and does not advance equality of opportunity, and/or fulfils PSED in another way
- **Negative:** The EIA shows the policy, strategy, function, project or activity is likely to have an adverse impact on a particular protected characteristic(s) and potentially does not fulfil PSED, or the negative impact will be mitigated through another means.

Should your policy not be applicable, you must note this and state why.

Human Rights, Children's Rights

Additionally, demonstrate here that the impact on **Human and/or Children's Rights** arising from the policy has been considered.

Human Rights

Public authorities have an obligation to act in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights. These are:

- Article 2: [Right to life](#)
- Article 3: [Freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment](#)
- Article 4: [Right to liberty and security](#)
- Article 5: [Freedom from slavery and forced labour](#)
- Article 6: [Right to a fair trial](#)
- Article 7: [No punishment without law](#)
- Article 8: [Respect for your private and family life, home and correspondence](#)
- Article 9: [Freedom of thought, belief and religion](#)
- Article 10: [Freedom of expression](#)
- Article 11: [Freedom of assembly and association](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Article 12: Right to marry and start a family ▪ Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these these rights and freedoms ▪ Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property ▪ Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education ▪ Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections <p>(Article 1 of Protocol 13 is: Abolition of the death penalty)</p> <p>Each of the above links takes you to explanations and examples provided by the EHRC. Further, the EHRC and the Ministry of Justice both provide guides for public authorities.</p> <p>Children’s Rights (UNCRC) All children and young people up to the age of 18 years have all the rights in the Convention. Some groups of children and young people - for example those living away from home, and young disabled people - have additional rights to make sure they are treated fairly and their needs are met.</p> <p>Every child in the UK has been entitled to over 40 specific rights. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The right to life, survival and development ▪ The right to have their views respected, and to have their best interests considered at all times ▪ The right to a name and nationality, freedom of expression, and access to information concerning them ▪ The right to live in a family environment or alternative care, and to have contact with both parents wherever possible ▪ Health and welfare rights, including rights for disabled children, the right to health and health care, and social security ▪ The right to education, leisure, culture and the arts ▪ Special protection for refugee children, children in the juvenile justice system, children deprived of their liberty and children suffering economic, sexual or other forms of exploitation <p>The rights included in the convention apply to all children and young people, with no exceptions.</p> <p>The above and more information can be found at Direct Gov.</p>
<p>Q3 Does the policy, strategy, function,</p>	<p>Yes/No</p> <p>Use your evidence from Q2 to state why</p>

project, activity, or programme make a positive contribution to equalities?	
Q4 Does the policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme actually or potentially contribute to or hinder equality of opportunity and/or human rights?	Yes/No If the answer here is 'yes', then it is necessary to go ahead with a Full Equality Impact Analysis. You should also consider a Full Equality Impact Analysis if your decision is likely to be of high relevance to equality, and/or be of high public interest.