

Unit 20, The Broadway – Information Centre Equality Impact Assessment

Overall Information	Details of Full Equalities Impact Assessment
Financial Year and Quarter	2011/Q4
Name and details of policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme	Title of EIA: Potential disposal of Unit 20, The Broadway - The Information Centre and services decant. Short summary: Following a period of consultation with local residents, it is proposed that the services currently located at The Information Centre be decanted and the property offered for disposal. Unit 20 The Broadway, is a ground floor shop unit situated in Hammersmith Broadway Shopping Centre, leased to a voluntary service who provide an information service to local residents and visitors
Name of Service Department	Name: Benedict Hefford Position: Interim Assistant Director: Quality, Commissioning & Procurement, Community Services Department Email: Benedict.hefford@lbhf.gov.uk Telephone No: 020 8753 3608
Date of completion of final EIA	19 Jan 2011

Section 02	Scoping of Full EIA
Plan for completion	Timing: During and post-consultation, using feedback Resources: Officer time Lead Officer: Benedict Hefford
What is the policy, strategy, function, project, activity, or programme looking to achieve?	Aims: to realise the disposal buildings considered surplus to LBHF requirements. The building will become available for disposal thus potentially further reducing council deficit and enabling resources allocated to the council to be used to the maximum benefit of all local residents. Objectives

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Who is intended to benefit from it from across the six strands (including where people or groups are represented in more than one strand)?

Race	Neutral	L	<p>Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service is offered to people from any background who want to obtain information about events, services and visitor attractions in Hammersmith. • There are alternative information points available across Hammersmith – e.g. libraries, arts & cultural venues, civic venues, web-sites etc. • There are no services aimed at any specific racial groups using the centre at present or data analysis of users to show that there will be a negative impact. Therefore the proposals will have a neutral impact on race. • Service relocation will potentially take place in alternative buildings or hubs where there may be enhanced opportunities for residents who have not accessed services at the centre. • Currently the information centre is a stand alone service. If the service was relocated to an alternative shared venue it could benefit from working alongside organisations promoting good relations between ethnic groups.
Disability	Neutral	L / M	<p>Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information centre is currently fully accessible with excellent transport links. However it is set away from the main Broadway concourse and does not therefore benefit easily from passing footfall. • The centre has not specifically promoted equality of opportunity between disabled persons and other persons. The organisation may benefit from moving to alternative premises designed to encourage partnership working, where this would be more achievable. There are alternative spaces in the local borough which may be better set up to offer this option. • Eliminate discrimination that is unlawful under the Act; N/A The

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				<p>information service delivered at Unit 20 The Broadway is understood to operate within Equal Opportunities guidelines. This would not change with relocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate harassment of disabled persons that is related to their disabilities; N/A there is no evidence of discrimination in the services that are being delivered currently and no reason to assume that by changing location this will alter. • Promote positive attitudes towards disabled persons and encourage participation by disabled persons in public life; This may be improved by relocation to a more visible community space where integration and increase in exposure may give rise to opportunities for greater community cohesion. • Take steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, even where that involves treating disabled persons more favourably than other persons; N/A currently but will consider if it means that a disabled person needs additional provision to enable access to services.
	Gender	Neutral	L	<p>Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful sex discrimination and harassment (including for transsexual people); The services delivered by the Information Centre are supported by council departments that operate within Equal Opportunities guidelines. This would not change with relocation. • Promote equality of opportunity between men and women; Again equal opportunities guidelines apply. Re-location would not affect the type of support the organisation offers to the community.
	Age	Neutral	L	<p>Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The services delivered at the Information Centre are understood to operate within Equal Opportunities guidelines. This would not change with relocation.
	Sexual Orientation	Neutral	L	<p>Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact:</p> <p>The services delivered at the information Centre are understood to operate within Equal Opportunities guidelines. This would not</p>

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				change with relocation.
	Religion/belief (including non-belief)	Neutral	L	Reasoning/comment, including N/A and impact: N/A. As previously stated - The services delivered from The Information Centre are understood to operate within Equal Opportunities guidelines. This would not change with relocation.
Will it affect Human Rights, as defined by the Human Rights Act 1998? No				

Section 03	Assessment of relevant data and/or undertake research
Documents and data reviewed	Documents reviewed are: LBHF policies and procedures – outlines staff and council conduct to ensure due regard is given to equality and highest service standards are maintained http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Community_and_Living/Equality_and_Diversity/ LBHF 3 rd Sector Strategy - sets out the Council's aspirations for its investment programmes and premises provision, and the parameters of this support http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Images/LBHF%203rd%20Sector%20Strategy_tcm21-154769.pdf
New research	no new research

Section 04	Assess or undertake consultation
Consultation	The consultation asked residents whether they agreed that disposing of buildings surplus to requirements is the best way to address the council's debt mountain, and preserve as much funding as possible for front line services. The consultation asked for specific feedback on The Information Centre.
Assessment	Consultation responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses regarding this property: 227 • Responses supporting re-leasing: 25%

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses opposed to re-leasing: 19% • No preference: 56% <p>The proportion of responses for and against this proposal is far more evenly spread than with other properties. Many feel that the centre is not used due to its bad location and so see no reason in keeping it, also suggesting that the property may be attractive to other businesses as a retail space. However, others say that it is a well-used centre and should not be let go.</p>
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Section 05	Assessment of impact and outcomes
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EIA shows that there is no evidence of discrimination. • There is no direct negative impact identified in terms of race, disability, gender religion/faith, sexual orientation or age factors. The impact overall therefore is considered low.

Section 06	Reducing any adverse impacts
Outcome of Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of on-line information for visitors is extensive, and is often better in terms of disabled access than printed documents or information that needs to be accessed from a physical location. • There may be a low economic impact, if local events, visitor attractions and businesses are overly reliant on the Information Centre to publicise their services or activities. However, the availability of alternative sites (libraries, community centres, local media, the internet, church halls and through local organisations), this impact is not considered to be significant. • This centre costs the council approx £40k per year in business rates and service charges – a position that simply does not make good financial sense to continue. • There is not a strong business case for continuing to support a visitor information centre in the borough. The council's market centre management uses the internet to publicise local opportunities and activities, and certainly it would be expected that the majority of visitors to the borough are able to access on-line information regarding tourism, hospitality and related services. • The council does not own the information centre - it is leased. The lease on the premises allows the council to use the shop for general shop uses and also Financial and Professional Services and is therefore not restrictive. • The council's intention would either be to offer the premises back to the landlord or sub let the

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	premises to a retailer paying a market rent. At the very least the council should strive to achieve £29,000 a year income to ensure the retention of the space is cost neutral, with any new tenant responsible for business rates directly.
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Section 07	Action Plan
Action Plan	<p>Includes and is listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issue identified –Identify users who advertise their information via the centre and find alternatives for communication ▪ Action (s) to be taken –Contact users with alternatives ▪ When – Upon announcement of buildings consultation decision ▪ Lead officer – Sue Spiller ▪ Expected outcome – mailout and subsequent increase in information via alternatives including council web-site ▪ 3rd Sector Premises Plan was added to QCP Business Plan 2010 – 2013 dated 6 April 2010. If agreed at Cabinet the above actions will be added subsequent business plan.

Section 08	Agreement, publication and monitoring
Chief Officer sign-off	<p>Name: Sue Spiller Position: Head of Community Investment Email: sue.spiller@lbhf.gov.uk Telephone No: 020 8753 2483</p>
Key Decision Report	<p>Date of report to Cabinet/Cabinet Member: 07 / 02 / 10 Confirmation that key equalities issues found here have been included: Yes</p>
Opportunities Manager	<p>(When EIAs have been determined to be of high relevance) Name: Carly Fry Position: Opportunities Manager Email: PEIA@lbhf.gov.uk Telephone No: 020 8753 3430</p>