

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**TITLE: Statement of Community Involvement**

## VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Description of Changes
07/09/2020	1	Tom Evans	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service / service)

Department	Place		Lead officer responsible for assessment		Tom Evans (Neighbourhood Planning Manager)	
Service	Strategic Planning		Other members of team undertaking assessment		n/a	
Date	September 2020		Version			
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Strategy	Plan	Function	Policy	Procedure	Service
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)	New		Existing		Revision	
<p>Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation)</p> <p>Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement of Community Involvement</li> <li>Existing policy which is being revised</li> </ul> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory document that sets out how the council will engage with stakeholders in regard to the development of planning policy documents and development management decisions.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19, government has issued temporary regulations that reduce the need to provide hard copies of planning documents in libraries and offices, whilst emphasizing digital engagement.</p> <p>This EIA is focused on the delivery of a Covid-Secure approach to the Councils planning function and the implications for all staff and stakeholders.</p> <p>The already identified risk disparities by PHE against Covid-19 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age: adverse impacts on older people.</li> <li>Sex: adverse impacts on males.</li> <li>Race: adverse impacts on people from a Black and Minority Ethnic background (BAME)</li> <li>Co-morbidity: adversely impacting those with existing health conditions.</li> </ul>					
Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with?	<p>The main stakeholders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general public</li> </ul>					

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<p>(e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The development industry</i></li> <li>• <i>CEC staff</i></li> </ul> <p>Specific characteristics that may be affected most by these proposals are age and disability. Charities that support older people, the disability charity 'Belong' and Cheshire East 'Connected Communities' service have been consulted</p>
<p>What consultation method(s) did you use?</p>	<p><i>Consultation with these groups included email exchange and phone conversation and identified... (pending feedback)</i></p>

### Stage 2 Initial Screening

<p><b>Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis?</b> (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)</p>	<p><i>The proposals could affect a range of protected characteristics based on their ability access digital services. The most likely characteristics affected are age and disability. <a href="#">Exploring the UK's Digital Divide</a>, (Office for National Statistics, 2019) identified that over half on non-internet users were over 75 and over half were disabled. The percentage of non-internet users in both groups has been declining in recent years.</i></p>
<p><b>Who is intended to benefit and how?</b></p>	<p><i>The revised policy could have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics by reducing the need for public interaction when accessing planning documents, and therefore reducing transmission opportunities for Covid 19.</i></p>
<p><b>Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?</b></p>	<p><i>Greater emphasis on digital services and the promotion of access t planning documents and consultation material through social media and other digital platforms may improve engagement with sections of the community that currently do not participate in planning decisions.</i></p>
<p><b>Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected?</b> (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)</p>	<p>No. Although focusing consultation and access to planning documents toward digital services is more likely to a affect older people and disabled people, mitigation measures are also proposed to ensure these groups can still access documents should they need to.</p>
<p><b>Is there any specific targeted</b></p>	<p>The approach will include mitigation measures that ensure those that wish to access the council's planning documents</p>

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<p>action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?</p>	<p>in hard copy can do so by pre-appointment at our library services.</p>							
<p>Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics? (Please tick)</p>								
Age		N	Marriage & civil partnership		N	Religion & belief		N
Disability		N	Pregnancy & maternity		N	Sex		N
Gender reassignment		N	Race		N	Sexual orientation		N
<p>What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts</p>							<p>Consultation/ involvement carried out</p>	
							Yes	No
Age	<p>Does this service provide any impact for different age groups? If so what is this? <b>Yes – it may reduce access to planning documents and consultation opportunities however mitigation measures are proposed to offset this impact</b></p>					Yes		
Disability	<p>Does this service provide any impact for disabilities? If so what is this? <b>Yes – it may reduce access to planning documents and consultation opportunities however mitigation measures are proposed to offset this impact</b></p>					Yes		
Gender reassignment	<p>Does this service provide any impact for those who have undergone gender reassignment? If so what is this? <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b></p>						No	
Marriage & civil partnership	<p>Does this service provide any impact for people who are married or have a civil partner? <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b></p>						No	
Pregnancy & maternity	<p>Does this service provide any impact for women who are pregnant or on maternity leave? <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b></p>						No	
Race	<p>Does this service provide any impact for people from a particular race? If so what is this? <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly</b></p>						No	

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	<b><i>disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</i></b>		
<b>Religion &amp; belief</b>	<i>Does this service provide any impact for people from different faith groups? If so what is this?</i> <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b>		<b>No</b>
<b>Sex</b>	<i>Does this service provide any impact for men or women? If so what is this?</i> <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b>		<b>No</b>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<i>Does this service provide any impact for people who are gay, lesbian etc.? If so what is this?</i> <b>No – existing information does not indicate that this group are significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to digital services/the internet</b>		<b>No</b>
<b>Proceed to full impact assessment? (Please tick)</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Date September 2020</b>
<b>Lead officer sign off</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Head of service sign off</b>		<b>Date</b>	

**If yes, please proceed to Stage 3. If no, please publish the initial screening as part of the suite of documents relating to this issue**

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### Stage 3 Identifying impacts and evidence

This section identifies if there are impacts on equality, diversity and cohesion, what evidence there is to support the conclusion and what further action is needed

Protected characteristics	<p>Is the policy (function etc....) likely to have an adverse impact on any of the groups?</p> <p>Please include evidence (qualitative &amp; quantitative) and consultations</p> <p>List what negative impacts were recorded in Stage 1 (Initial Assessment).</p>	<p>Are there any positive impacts of the policy (function etc....) on any of the groups?</p> <p>Please include evidence (qualitative &amp; quantitative) and consultations</p> <p>List what positive impacts were recorded in Stage 1 (Initial Assessment).</p>	<p>Please rate the impact taking into account any measures already in place to reduce the impacts identified</p> <p><b>High:</b> Significant potential impact; history of complaints; no mitigating measures in place; need for consultation</p> <p><b>Medium:</b> Some potential impact; some mitigating measures in place, lack of evidence to show effectiveness of measures</p> <p><b>Low:</b> Little/no identified impacts; heavily legislation-led; limited public facing aspect</p>	<p>Further action (only an outline needs to be included here. A full action plan can be included at Section 4)</p> <p>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</p>
Age				
Disability				
Gender reassignment				
Marriage & civil partnership				
Pregnancy and				

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<b>maternity</b>				
<b>Race</b>				
<b>Religion &amp; belief</b>				
<b>Sex</b>				
<b>Sexual orientation</b>				
<p><b>Is this change due to be carried out wholly or partly by other providers? If yes, please indicate how you have ensured that the partner organisation complies with equality legislation (e.g. tendering, awards process, contract, monitoring and performance measures)</b></p>				

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## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Stage 4 Review and Conclusion

<b>Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed</b>			
<b>Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts</b>	<b>How will this be monitored?</b>	<b>Officer responsible</b>	<b>Target date</b>
<b>Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions</b>			
<b>When will this assessment be reviewed?</b>			
<b>Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?</b>			
<b>Lead officer sign off</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Head of service sign off</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Please publish this completed EIA form on the relevant section of the Cheshire East website