

Equality Impact Assessment

Purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment process:

The Equality Act (2010) introduced the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) requiring public bodies to give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

Consideration must be given to the protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act (2010). Assessments should consider relevant evidence relating to persons with protected characteristics in relation to assessments of potential impact.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that policies, functions, plans or decisions (hereafter referred to as 'policy/ decision') do not create unnecessary barriers for people protected under the Act. Where negative impacts are identified these should be eliminated or minimised, and opportunities for positive impact should be maximised. An EIA is not required for a decision in relation to an individual.

Screening is a short exercise to determine whether a policy/ decision is relevant to equalities, and if so, whether a full EIA should be conducted.

Section 1: Equality Impact Assessment Screening

Basic Details	
Title and description of the policy/ decision:	Plan Mid Devon Gateway 1 Self-Assessment
Job title of the person(s) undertaking the assessment:	Forward Planning Team Leader
Council service:	Planning
Date of assessment:	26.08.2026

What are the aims, purposes, objectives and proposed outcomes of the policy/ decision?

Further Details	
Who may be affected by the policy/ decision?	All Wards
How have stakeholders been involved in the development of the policy/ decision? E.g. a consultation exercise	The Council is required to complete a Gateway 1 self-assessment of its readiness to start the preparation of the new local plan. This includes the publication of a self-assessment summary report. There is no requirement to consult with stakeholders about the self-assessment.
Will there be scope for prompt, independent reviews and appeals against decisions arising from the policy/ decision?	Yes

To which part(s) of the Public Sector Equality Duties is the policy/ decision relevant:	Yes	No	Details
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination	☒	☐	
2. Advance equality of opportunity	☒	☐	
3. Foster good relations between different groups	☒	☐	

Which of the protected characteristics is the policy/ decision relevant to?

Tick and briefly describe any likely equalities impact (positive, negative, or neutral)

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Comments
Sex	☐	☐	☒	
Age	☐	☐	☒	
Disability	☐	☐	☒	
Religion or Belief	☐	☐	☒	
Race	☐	☐	☒	

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Comments
Sexual Orientation	☐	☐	☒	
Gender reassignment	☐	☐	☒	
Pregnancy/ maternity	☐	☐	☒	
Marriage and Civil partnership*	☐	☐	☒	

*Applies only to Employment and the duty to give regard to the elimination of discrimination.

Decision by Corporate Manager to recommend this policy/ decision for an Equality Impact Assessment?

Yes/ No

If the answer is “Yes”, please continue to the Section 2 and complete the Equality Impact Assessment. If the answer is “No”, please give a brief reason here.

The self-assessment summary will have a neutral effect on persons with protected characteristics.

EIA Screening Complete

Section 2: Equality Impact Assessment

Evidence and Consultation

What existing sources of information have you gathered to help identify how people covered by the protected characteristics may be affected by this policy/ decision? E.g. consultations, national or local data and/or research, complaints or customer feedback. Please identify any gaps in the available information that might make it difficult to form an opinion about the effect of the policy on different groups.

Please complete this table for all the Protected Characteristics. If you have identified any negative impacts you will need to consider how these can be justified or where possible mitigated either to reduce or remove them. (Please add rows where needed)

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impacts/ Issues Identified/ Opportunities identified	Mitigation required (action) or Justification	Lead Officer and target completion date	What is the expected outcome from the action?
Sex				
Age				
Disability				
Religion or Belief				
Race				
Sexual Orientation				
Gender Reassignment				

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impacts/ Issues Identified/ Opportunities identified	Mitigation required (action) or Justification	Lead Officer and target completion date	What is the expected outcome from the action?
Pregnancy/ maternity				
Marriage and civil partnership*				

*(Applies only to Employment and the duty to give regard to the elimination of discrimination)

Please provide details of arrangements to monitor and review the policy/ decision and any mitigating actions or actions to promote equality:

Please state where the EIA will be published (e.g. on the Mid Devon District Council website):

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Equality Impact Assessment Sign off

For completion by Corporate Manager

Are you prepared to agree and sign off the EIA?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If "No", provide details of why and next steps:

Name:

Job Title:

Date: