



EQUALITY ANALYSIS (EA) - SCREENING TEMPLATE

GUIDANCE TOOL This Tool assists services in determining whether their plans and decisions will require a full Equalities Analysis. EAs help the Council comply with its duty under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have “due regard” to specified equality matters. They are required in most cases but, in some cases, an EA is not necessary or is only necessary for certain aspects of a decision. The full EA template is available here:

<https://foresthub.walthamforest.gov.uk/services/information-governance/governance-and-law/council-meetings>

The Council understands that whilst its equalities duty applies to all services, it is going to be more relevant to some decisions than others. We need to be pragmatic and ensure that the detail of Equality Analyses (EAs) are proportionate to the impact of decisions on the equality

duty. In some cases a full EA is not necessary and/or the equalities duties do not apply. In other cases, only part of a decision will require an EA to ensure the Council has due regard to its equality duties. The following examples are intended to assist:

Where will a full EA be required?	Where might an EA not be required?
<p>In short, wherever a decision has a more than minimal or theoretical adverse or negative impact on those with protected characteristics, for example, if the Council is considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ceasing a service• Reducing a service or reducing it in particular areas, e.g. closing an office in Leyton but not Walthamstow• Changes to the way a service is delivered, e.g. moving to personalisation or moving to online access only• Changes to eligibility criteria, rules or practices for a service• Changes to discretionary fees and charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where it can be proven that the decision has no equalities impact– with particular focus on negative impacts on service users and residents• Where it can be proven that the decision has a minimal or theoretical equalities impact (and so does not need to be considered)• Where the decision is mandatory and there is no element of discretion (e.g. to adopt a member’s code of conduct or similar)• In rare cases, where a previous EA exists and a review shows that it is still relevant at the time of the final decision, i.e. the facts have not changed

Important:

- The EA screening tool should not be used to mask over any equality impacts or as a “get out”.
- There can be a negative equality impact even if you think that overall, you are proposing changes that will make services better. If there is an adverse or negative impact, you must complete a full EA.
- **Negative** impacts are often indirect, i.e. a rule that is on its face of universal impact but has greater impact on some groups in practice e.g. due to the ethnic makeup of an area.
- In most cases, the screening process requires a degree of collation and analysis of

evidence. If this requires a lot of work, consider whether it is actually simpler to omit the screening process and undertake a full EA.

- The equality duty **continues** up to and after the final decision. If proposals or facts change before the final decision, any screening tool will need to be reviewed and evidenced.
- Any consultation undertaken should also inform the screening process, e.g. issues raised by those affected. Monitoring should take place after a decision as part of service delivery.
- The completed screening template will be attached to Cabinet or other decision making report and so it must include sufficient detail to justify the decision not to carry out a full EA.

What to do?

The screening process should be used on **ALL** new proposals, policies, projects, functions, saving proposals, major developments or planning applications, or when revising them, if there is no negative equality impact or there is uncertainty about whether there is a negative equality impact. **However**, If your proposal is of a significant nature and it is apparent from the outset that a full EA will be required, then you do not need to complete this screening template and can progress directly to a full EA. If a negative/adverse impact has been identified during completion of the screening tool, a full EA **MUST** be undertaken. If you have not identified any negative/ adverse impacts arising from your proposal you do not need to undertake a full EA. However, make sure you have explained clearly why the

proposal does not have any negative/adverse impact. **If your proposal is going to Cabinet or Committee (e.g. Planning or Licensing) and you are not undertaking a full EA, you must:**

- a. share your report and completed screening tool with Equalities (equalities@walthamforest.gov.uk), who will check and challenge your findings *and*
- b. use the following wording under the Equality & Diversity paragraph in the Cabinet report: “An initial screening exercise of the equality impact of this decision was undertaken and determined there was no / minimal impact (delete as appropriate) on the Council’s equality duty.” Attach the completed template as an appendix to your report.

1. Proposal / Project Title: Reshaping our Homelessness Support Offer

2. Brief summary of the above: (include main aims, proposed outcomes, recommendations / decisions sought)

The main aims of this proposal are to improve the customer experience and outcomes for households seeking housing advice and homelessness support through:
 Adoption of a Jobs Academy Approach to improve chances of households and reduce/remove the impact of the benefit cap
 Enhanced housing advice offer to residents living in the private sector
 Re-introduce some face-to-face assessments for households threatened with homelessness
 Establish a housing sustainment team as part of the Families in Housing Need programme
 A review of service delivery by shelter to assess the impact and identify any additional improvements that could be made

3. Considering the equality aims (eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations) indicate for each protected group whether there may be a positive impact, negative (adverse) impact, or no impact arising from the proposal.

4. Protected Characteristic (Equality Group) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Briefly explain your answer. Consider evidence, data and any consultation. https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/statistics-about-borough
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The new and enhanced services being developed will be available to all adults irrespective of age with improved accessibility with less reliance on digital delivery
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The new and enhanced services being developed improve the accessibility and personalisation of services to address the needs of vulnerable households. Buildings being utilised to deliver the face-to-face service meet accessibility requirements
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The new and enhanced services will provide greater personalisation for households addressing their individual needs at the point of service delivery
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The new and enhanced services will support individuals regardless of their religion or belief, and staff are expected to support individuals in line with their religion or beliefs.
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The services will support individuals regardless of their religion or belief, and staff are expected to support individuals in line with their religion or beliefs.
Sex (Including Gender Re-assignment)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The services will support individuals regardless of their sex. The new and enhanced services being developed improve the accessibility and personalisation of services to address the individual needs of all households
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The services will support individuals regardless of their sex or sexual orientation. The new and enhanced services being developed improve the accessibility and personalisation of services to address the needs of vulnerable households.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The services will support individuals regardless of their marital status

5. There are no negative/adverse impact(s) If you have not identified any negative/adverse impacts please briefly explain your answer, providing evidence to support decision.	The development of enhanced and new services extends the reach of the services and addresses the needs of households who may be disadvantaged as a result of the current on-line or digital focus of service delivery. Households who took part in the consultation that contributed to the development of the families in household need report indicated a need for relationship based support through a holistic approach addressing the needs of every aspect affecting their lives including protected characteristics		
6. Describe how opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations for any of the protected characteristics has been taken up (where relevant).	Click here to enter text.		
7. As a result of this screening is a full EA necessary (Please check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> appropriate box)	Yes	No	Briefly explain your answer. There is no expected negative impact from this proposal
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Name of Lead Officer: Helen Davies		Job title: Programme Manager	Date screening tool completed: 18 May 2023

Signed off by Head of Service:



Name:

Lindsay Megson

Date:

23 May 2023