



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: Affordable Housing Commission Report				
2. Brief summary of the above: (include main aims, proposed outcomes, recommendations / decisions sought) Waltham Forest Affordable Housing Commission was launched in January 2023. A group of independent experts were asked to provide recommendations to the Council on how to maximise the positive impact of its housing growth approach for residents. The Commission has now published its final independent report, including a set of recommendations. Cabinet are asked to note and consider those recommendations, and to approve the proposed formulation of the Council's response to the report.				
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"/>	One of the recommendations of the Commission is about working with older and younger people to design and deliver homes that are suitable for them. Younger people are also less likely to own a home, and an increase in affordable housing supply will benefit them.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One of the recommendations of the Commission is about working with vulnerable groups, including residents with a disability, to design and deliver homes that are suitable for them.
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We know that people identifying as Black, African, Caribbean or Black British represent a disproportionate proportion of people at risk of homelessness. Bangladeshi and Pakistani households are more likely to be overcrowded. The Commission's recommendations to provide more affordable housing, and to provide more support to private rented sector tenants, as well as the recommendation to build or acquire decent temporary accommodation will benefit those groups.
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Sex (Including Gender Re-assignment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
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 recommendations of the Commission will be considered by the Council, which will develop a response to them. Those recommendations, if delivered by the Council, will benefit residents affected by the housing crisis, with an emphasis on residents who are facing structural inequalities.		

6. Describe how opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations for any of the protected characteristics has been taken up (where relevant).	<p>The housing challenges faced by residents are felt in a more acute way by residents affected by structural inequalities. The evidence presented to the Commission made it clear that some groups of residents were more at risk of struggling to keep a decent roof over their heads because of a large spectrum of characteristics, from their ethnicity to whether they rent or own their home.</p> <p>The Commission itself has been very clear that equality should be considered for every of the recommendation, as a cross-cutting principle. The final report considers an array of systemic challenges which frame the Commissioners' recommendations. Inequality tops this list.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Commission are expected to have positive outcomes for those most impacted by structural inequalities, as they will improve housing conditions in the Borough.</p>		
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.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no immediate risk of negative or adverse impacts for any protected characteristics.
8. Name of Lead Officer: Sophie Lantreibecq		Job title: Senior Policy Officer	Date screening tool completed: 08 June 2023

Signed off by Head of Service:

A. Steel

Name:

Amy Steel

Date:

21/06/2023