

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Title of Activity:	Proposed Uplift of Planning Application Fees
Type of activity:	<p>Planning Control's main activity is the processing of planning and other related application within the legislative framework provided by the Town and Country Planning Acts.</p> <p>Most applications require a fee to be paid in order for the application to be processed.</p> <p>On 7th February this year, the Government published the 'Fixing our broken our housing market' White Paper. The White Paper included proposals for boosting local authority capacity and capability to deliver, improving the speed and quality with which planning cases are handled, while deterring unnecessary appeals.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.15 of the White Paper explained that to help boost local authority capacity and capability to deliver, the Government will increase nationally set planning fees, with local authorities being able to increase fees from 20% if they commit to invest the additional fee income in their planning department.</p>
Lead officer:	Helen Oakerbee, Planning Manager, Development
Approved by:	TBC
Date completed:	11 September 2017
Date for review, if applicable:	TBC

Did you seek advice from the Corporate Policy & Diversity team?	Yes
Does the EIA contain any confidential or exempt information that would prevent you publishing it on the Council's website?	No

Equality Impact Assessment Checklist

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to ensure that your activity meets the needs of individuals and groups that use your service. It also helps the Council to meet its legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Please complete the following checklist to determine whether or not you will need to complete an EIA. Please ensure you keep this section for your audit trail. If you have any questions, please contact the Corporate Policy and Diversity Team at diversity@haverling.gov.uk

Title of Activity:	Proposed Uplift of Planning Application Fees
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Scope of activity:	The 20% fee uplift will apply to all nationally set planning application fees.

Is the activity new or changing?:	Yes. Fees are currently applied to most types of planning application. The range of fees will not change, however their value will increase
Is the activity likely to have an impact on individuals or groups?:	Yes. The proposed fee uplift will increase the costs associated with applying for planning permission
Completed by:	Helen Oakerbee, Planning Manager, Development
Date:	11 September 2017

Background/Context

Planning Control's main activity is the processing of planning and other related application within the legislative framework provided by the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Most applications require a fee to be paid in order for the application to be processed.

On 7th February this year, the Government published the 'Fixing our broken our housing market' White Paper. The White Paper included proposals for boosting local authority capacity and capability to deliver, improving the speed and quality with which planning cases are handled, while deterring unnecessary appeals.

Paragraph 2.15 of the White Paper explained that to help boost local authority capacity and capability to deliver, the Government will increase nationally set planning fees, with local authorities being able to increase fees from 20% if they commit to invest the additional fee income in their planning department.

No data is collected or held by the Planning Service in connection with the profile of its specific customer base. However, there is a sound understanding of the composition of the Borough's population which is set out below.

The proposed uplift of fees will affect not accessibility of the service but it will increase the costs of making a planning application. The majority of users of the planning application service are householders, however the 20% uplift would only marginally increase the householder application fee from £172 to approximately £206. In the context of the overall cost of extending or altering a home, this small increase is not considered to be prohibitive. For developers bringing forward proposals through the application process, the proposed fee uplift would be absorbed into what can be significant assembly costs (eg. land, professional fees etc.)

Decisions on planning applications need to take account of the Public Sector Equality Duty and through the planning process, individuals are giving the opportunity (through

statutory consultation and publicity) to shape the places they live and work in. The additional resources made available to the planning service through the fee uplift should enable the team to work more proactively at securing greater opportunities for disadvantaged groups, particularly through the delivery of affordable housing, by securing employment and training opportunities and more positive place making for all.

The EIA

Age: Consider the full range of age groups		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact: The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence:		
<p>Havering's age structure is geared significantly towards the elderly, with proportionally more people aged 65+ than both that of Greater London and the rest of the nation, accounting for 18.5% of all Havering residents.</p> <p>There is also a significantly greater child population aged under 4 (6.1%). In contrast, there are significantly smaller proportions of young adults and working age residents aged 18-64 (60.0%) than both the Greater London (68%) and national averages (64.7%).</p>		

Disability: Consider the full range of disabilities, including physical mental, sensory and progressive conditions.		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact: Those persons with a disability who are registered disabled are exempt from paying a fee for their planning application, providing that the works being proposed are for their direct benefit.
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence:		
<p>Havering has one of the highest recorded rates of serious physical disability among London boroughs, with a rate of 7,788 per 100,000 people, well above the London and national averages of 7,006 and 7,704 respectively. (Health survey England 2001).</p> <p>Furthermore, 18.2% of working age people in Havering has disclosed they have a disability or a long term illness, a figure again outweighing Outer London and London</p>		

averages of 16.4% and 16.1% respectively, and just short of the national average of 19.2% (GLA, London Borough Profiles 2016).

Sex/gender: Consider both men and women

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

Positive	
Neutral	✓
Negative	

Overall impact:

The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.

Evidence:

52% of Havering's current population (125,848) are girls and women (and)
48% of Havering's current population (116,232) are boys and men.

The percentage of girls and women in Havering is slightly above the average for London (50%) and England (51%).

Ethnicity/race: Consider the impact on different ethnic groups and nationalities

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

Positive	
Neutral	✓
Negative	

Overall impact:

The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.

Evidence:

Havering is clearly one of the most ethnically homogenous Boroughs in London, with data to suggest over 83% of its residents are recorded as white British which is a figure significantly greater than that of London (44.9%) and the rest of the country (80.5%). Within the broad white groups category there is the Gypsy/Irish Traveller community who make up to 0.1% of the borough's population.

According to the GLA ethnic group categorisation, Black Africans form the largest minority group, with 3.8% of the total population.

Furthermore, according to the Census 2011, the most commonly spoken languages in the borough after English were; Lithuanian (0.4%), Polish (0.4%), Punjabi (0.3%) Bengalis (0.2%) and Filipino (0.2%)

Religion/faith: Consider people from different religions or beliefs including those with no religion or belief

<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact: The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence: Havering is an overwhelmingly Christian borough, with a higher proportion of Christians (66.0%) than both Greater London (48.4%) and the rest of country (59.3%). The next biggest religious denomination was Muslim at (2.0%), however this is still markedly below proportions experienced within both Greater London (12.4%) and the rest of the country (4.8%).		

Sexual orientation: Consider people who are heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact: The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence: There is no information on sexual orientation or gender identity at either local or national levels.		

Gender reassignment: Consider people who are seeking, undergoing or have received gender reassignment surgery, as well as people whose gender identity is different from their gender at birth		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact: The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence: No data is available regarding gender reassignment.		

Marriage/civil partnership: Consider people in a marriage or civil partnership

<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact:
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence:		
<p>The 2011 census indicated that 48.5% of Havering's population are married, which is significantly greater than the proportion of married couples for Greater London (39.8%) and the rest of the country (46.6%).</p> <p>Conversely, Havering has some of the lowest percentages (just 0.2%) for registered same-sex civil partnerships in London (0.5%), and also falls below the proportions for the rest of the country (0.3%) (Census data, 2011).</p>		

Pregnancy, maternity and paternity: Consider those who are pregnant and those who are undertaking maternity or paternity leave		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact:
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence:		
<p>The total fertility rate in Havering has fluctuated over the years but has risen from 54 births per 1,000 women in 2003, to 66 births per 1,000 women in 2014 (Havering Public Health Service 2016, 'This is Havering'), a factor responsible for the significant increase in children aged under 4 in the Borough.</p>		

Socio-economic status: Consider those who are from low income or financially excluded backgrounds		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		Overall impact:
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed fee uplift would not disproportionately impact upon this protected characteristic. All applicants (with certain exceptions which are identified by national legislation) pay for their planning application.
Neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence:		

No data is available regarding socio-economic status.