

## Equality & Health Impact Assessment (EqHIA)

### Document control

<b>Title of activity:</b>	Procurement of Highways Tree Maintenance Services 2022
<b>Lead officer:</b>	<i>Jacki Ager, Waste and External Contracts Manager Public Realm, Neighbourhoods.</i>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<i>Jerry Haley, Head of Policy, Performance and Communities 13th October 2021</i>
<b>Date completed:</b>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</i>
<b>Scheduled date for review:</b>	<i>Every 2 years</i>

Please note that the Corporate Policy & Diversity and Public Health teams require at least **5 working days** to provide advice on EqHIAs.

<b>Did you seek advice from the Corporate Policy &amp; Diversity team?</b>	Yes
<b>Did you seek advice from the Public Health team?</b>	Yes
<b>Does the EqHIA contain any confidential or exempt information that would prevent you publishing it on the Council's website?</b>	No

Please note that EqHIAs are **public** documents and must be made available on the Council's [EqHIA webpage](#).

**Please submit the completed form via e-mail to [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) thank you.**

# 1. Equality & Health Impact Assessment Checklist

Please complete the following checklist to determine whether or not you will need to complete an EqHIA and ensure you keep this section for your audit trail. If you have any questions, please contact [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) for advice from either the Corporate Diversity or Public Health teams. Please refer to the Guidance in Appendix 1 on how to complete this form.

## About your activity

1	<b>Title of activity</b>	Tree Strategy 2020-2030		
2	<b>Type of activity</b>	<i>Procurement of services</i>		
3	<b>Scope of activity</b>	Procurement of tree maintenance services, to ensure the continued health and safety of trees on the highway and on Council land.		
4a	<b>Are you changing, introducing a new, or removing a service, policy, strategy or function?</b>	No	If the answer to <u>any</u> of these questions is 'YES', please continue to question 5.	If the answer to <u>all</u> of the questions (4a, 4b & 4c) is 'NO', please go to question 6.
4b	<b>Does this activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people (9 protected characteristics)?</b>	Yes		
4c	<b>Does the activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing?</b>	Yes		
5	<b>If you answered YES:</b>	<b>Please complete the EqHIA in Section 2 of this document.</b> Please see Appendix 1 for Guidance.		
6	<b>If you answered NO:</b>	<p><i>Please provide a clear and robust explanation on why your activity does not require an EqHIA. This is essential in case the activity is challenged under the Equality Act 2010.</i></p> <p><i>Please keep this checklist for your audit trail.</i></p>		

<b>Completed by:</b>	<i>Jacki Ager, Waste and External Contracts Manager, Environment, Neighbourhoods</i>
<b>Date:</b>	

## 2. The EqHIA – How will the strategy, policy, plan, procedure and/or service impact on people?

### Background/context:

*\*Expand box as required*

A Tree Strategy was produced in 2009, outlining how the Borough would manage its Highways tree stock, and reflecting Council environmental policy at the time. A contractor is employed to carry out maintenance on the Borough's tree stock, overseen by a Council client team. The team's main aims are:

- 1.1.1. To manage the Council's tree stock in accordance with good arboriculture practice.
- 1.1.2. To maintain the Council's tree stock on a regular cyclical basis using current best practice to reduce the amount of responsive works required.
- 1.1.3. To increase the stock of trees in aesthetically necessary and sustainable locations by taking advantage of different funding methods to include both grant funding and private sponsorship.
- 1.1.4. To maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboriculture and streetscape practice to BS standard 3998.
- 1.1.5. To inform and educate residents and businesses about the value of trees, and explore ways for greater involvement, consultation and protection from residents and businesses.
- 1.1.6. To promote and secure high quality tree planting and landscaping within new developments in order to maintain and enhance the Borough's local landscapes.

The main purpose of this EqHIA is to comment on the impacts that may be seen in continuing to employ a contractor for this purpose, and the impacts of not doing so and thus reducing any maintenance regime on trees.

### Who will be affected by the activity?

A less effective and frequent inspection and maintenance regime may lead to higher rates of failures and basal growth, as well as increased structural issues caused by root encroachment that could have been identified at an earlier stage. This would potentially have an adverse effect on all pavement users, but particularly those members of the community with mobility issues. Basal growth can also affect sight lines, creating an unsafe, or perception of an unsafe, environment. A regular inspection regime aims to mitigate these issues.

*\*Expand box as required*

### Protected Characteristic - Age: Consider the full range of age groups

Please tick (✓)  
the relevant box:

**Overall impact:**

<b>Positive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Older people and those with children in pushchairs may benefit more from open/accessible and even / unobstructed footways. Uneven or inaccessible footways are a particular barrier to older users or people with physical impairments and their carers. This is an impact that can result from root encroachment and basal growth. Effective inspections and early intervention may help to mitigate these issues. Effective inspections and early intervention help to mitigate these issues. <i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Neutral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Negative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Evidence:</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Sources used:</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Disability:</b> Consider the full range of disabilities; including physical mental, sensory and progressive conditions		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		<b>Overall impact:</b>  Disabled people or parents of disabled children may benefit more from open/accessible and even / unobstructed footways. Uneven or inaccessible footways are a particular barrier to wheelchair users or people with physical and sensory impairments and their guardians/parents/carers. This is an impact that can result from root encroachment, but also basal growth that can affect sightlines or be either invisible or distracting to pedestrians with visual impairments. Effective inspections and early intervention help to mitigate these issues.  <i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Positive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Neutral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Negative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Evidence:</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Sources used:</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Sex/gender:</b> Consider both men and women		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		<b>Overall impact:</b>  Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities to maintain them, will not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on members of the community identifying as female, and their perception of safety.
<b>Positive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Neutral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Negative</b>	<p>Antisocial behavior affects all genders (for example in street crime). Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment to reduce the perception and risk of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>	
<p><b>Sources used:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>	

<b>Protected Characteristic - Ethnicity/race:</b> Consider the impact on different ethnic groups and nationalities		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>	<p><b>Overall impact:</b></p> <p>Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities taken to maintain them, will not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, particularly around their perception of safety. Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment to reduce the perception and risk of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>	
<b>Positive</b>		✓
<b>Neutral</b>		
<b>Negative</b>		
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		
<p><b>Sources used:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Religion/faith:</b> Consider people from different religions or beliefs including those with no religion or belief	
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>	<p><b>Overall impact:</b></p> <p>Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities taken to maintain them, will</p>
<b>Positive</b>	

<b>Neutral</b>		not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, particularly around their perception of safety. Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment.
<b>Negative</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Evidence:</b>		
Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Sources used:</b>		
N/A		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Sexual orientation:</b> Consider people who are heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual		
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		<b>Overall impact:</b>  Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities taken to maintain them, will not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, particularly around their perception of safety. Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment.
<b>Positive</b>	✓	
<b>Neutral</b>		
<b>Negative</b>		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Evidence:</b>		
Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Sources used:</b>		
N/A		
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Gender reassignment:</b> 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>		<b>Overall impact:</b>

<b>Positive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities taken to maintain them, will not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, particularly around their perception of safety. Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>
<b>Neutral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Negative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		
<p><b>Sources used:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		

<p><b>Protected Characteristic - Marriage/civil partnership:</b> Consider people in a marriage or civil partnership</p>		
<p>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</p>		<p><b>Overall impact:</b></p> <p>None identified</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>
<b>Positive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Neutral</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Negative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		
<p><b>Sources used:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>		

<p><b>Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy, maternity and paternity:</b> Consider those who are pregnant and those who are undertaking maternity or paternity leave</p>		
<p>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</p>		<p><b>Overall impact:</b></p> <p>Pregnant people, or those with small children may benefit more from open/accessible and even / unobstructed footways. Uneven or inaccessible footways can be a result of root encroachment, but also basal growth which can obstruct footways and affect sightlines – particularly risky for people with</p>
<b>Positive</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Neutral</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Negative</b>		pushchairs/prams wishing to cross the road. Effective inspections and early intervention help to mitigate these issues.	<i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Evidence:</b>			
N/A			N/A <i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Sources used:</b>			
N/A			<i>*Expand box as required</i>

<b>Socio-economic status:</b> Consider those who are from low income or financially excluded backgrounds			
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		<b>Overall impact:</b>	
<b>Positive</b>	✓	Whilst the presence of trees in general, and activities taken to maintain them, will not be seen to have an adverse impact on this protected characteristic, declining quality and poorly maintained green space could have a disproportionate impact on individuals and groups with protected characteristics, particularly around their perception of safety. In this case, it may also cause residents within that area to feel more excluded / ignored. Effective tree maintenance, particularly around control of basal growth, will help to preserve an attractive, safe environment that is welcoming for all.	<i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Neutral</b>			
<b>Negative</b>			
<b>Evidence:</b>			
Overgrown areas can encourage antisocial / criminal behavior, which in turn causes others to feel vulnerable, and often reluctant to visit or pass through an area at certain times. Evidence of this can be seen within some parts of Havering, where overgrown copses have acted as a shelter for drug use, for example. Conversely, well-maintained trees can contribute towards the well-being of residents and visitors by providing a green and welcoming environment.			
			<i>*Expand box as required</i>
<b>Sources used:</b>			
N/A			<i>*Expand box as required</i>

<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Impact:</b> Consider both short and long-term impacts of the activity on a person's physical and mental health, particularly for disadvantaged, vulnerable or at-risk groups. Can health and wellbeing be positively promoted through this activity? Please use the Health and Wellbeing Impact Tool in Appendix 2 to help you answer this question.			
<i>Please tick (✓) all the relevant boxes that apply:</i>		<b>Overall impact:</b>	
<b>Positive</b>	✓	Well-designed tree planting improves air quality by filtering out pollutants, whilst trees within open spaces contribute to people's wellbeing by encouraging outdoor activity. For those that may be housebound, a view incorporating natural elements such as trees is likely to have a positive impact on the mental health of the individual. It is therefore important that the Borough's tree stock is maintained to	
<b>Neutral</b>			



<p><b>Negative</b></p>	<p>keep it healthy and safe, whilst actively increasing the tree cover where possible.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p> <p><b>Do you consider that a more in-depth HIA is required as a result of this brief assessment?</b> Please tick (✓) the relevant box</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>                                  <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </p>
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>	
<p><b>Sources used:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/4766/healthy-woods-healthy-lives.pdf">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/4766/healthy-woods-healthy-lives.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.ltoa.org.uk/docs/References_for_trees_and_human_health.pdf">https://www.ltoa.org.uk/docs/References_for_trees_and_human_health.pdf</a>          London Environment Strategy p139 – “The Value of London’s Urban Forest”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Expand box as required</i></p>	

### 3. Outcome of the Assessment

The EqHIA assessment is intended to be used as an improvement tool to make sure the activity maximises the positive impacts and eliminates or minimises the negative impacts. The possible outcomes of the assessment are listed below and what the next steps to take are:

Please tick (✓) what the overall outcome of your assessment was:

✓	1. The EqHIA identified <u>no significant concerns</u> OR the identified <u>negative concerns</u> have already been <u>addressed</u>	➔	<b>Proceed with implementation</b> of your activity
	2. The EqHIA identified some <u>negative impact</u> which still needs to be <u>addressed</u>	➔	<b>COMPLETE SECTION 4:</b> <b>Complete action plan</b> and finalise the EqHIA
	3. The EqHIA identified some <u>major concerns</u> and showed that it is <u>impossible to diminish negative impacts</u> from the activity to an acceptable or even lawful level	➔	<b>Stop and remove</b> the activity or <b>revise</b> the activity <b>thoroughly</b> . <b>Complete an EqHIA on the revised proposal.</b>

## 4. Action Plan

The real value of completing an EqHIA comes from the identifying the actions that can be taken to eliminate/minimise negative impacts and enhance/optimize positive impacts. In this section you should list the specific actions that set out how you will address any negative equality and health & wellbeing impacts you have identified in this assessment. Please ensure that your action plan is: more than just a list of proposals and good intentions; sets ambitious yet achievable outcomes and timescales; and is clear about resource implications.

Protected characteristic / health & wellbeing impact	Identified Negative or Positive impact	Recommended actions to mitigate Negative impact* or further promote Positive impact	Outcomes and monitoring**	Timescale	Lead officer

**Add further rows as necessary**

\* You should include details of any future consultations and any actions to be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts

\*\* Monitoring: You should state how the impact (positive or negative) will be monitored; what outcome measures will be used; the known (or likely) data source for outcome measurements; how regularly it will be monitored; and who will be monitoring it (if this is different from the lead officer).

## 5. Review

In this section you should identify how frequently the EqHIA will be reviewed; the date for next review; and who will be reviewing it.

**Review:**

Annually

**Scheduled date of review:** 12/10/2022

**Lead Officer conducting the review:** Jacki Ager

*\*Expand box as required*

**Please submit the completed form via e-mail to [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) thank you.**

# Appendix 1. Guidance on Undertaking an EqHIA

**This Guidance can be deleted prior to publication.**

## What is it?

The Equality & Health Impact Assessment (EqHIA) is a tool to ensure that your activity meets the needs of individuals and groups that use your service, whilst at the same time ensuring a person's chance of leading a healthy life is the same wherever they live and whoever they are. We want to ensure that the activities of the Council are 'fit for purpose' and meet the needs of Havering's increasingly diverse communities and employees. This robust and systematic EqHIA process ensures that any potential detrimental effects or discrimination is identified, removed, or mitigated and positive impacts are enhanced.

## When to Assess:

An EqHIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy, strategy or function; for simplicity, these are referred to as an "activity" throughout this document. It is best to conduct the assessment as early as possible in the decision-making process.

### Guidance: Equality & Health Impact Assessment Checklist

The Checklist in Section 1 asks the key questions,

**4a) Are you changing, introducing a new, or removing a service, policy, strategy or function?**

**4b) Does this activity (policy/strategy/service/decision) have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people (9 protected characteristics)?**

**4c) Does this activity (policy/strategy/service/decision) have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing?**

- If the answer to ANY of the questions 4a, 4b or 4c of the Checklist is 'YES' then you must carry out an assessment. e.g. Proposed changes to Contact Centre Opening Hours  
'YES' = you need to carry out an EqHIA
- If the answer to ALL of the questions, 4a or 4b of the Checklist is NO, then you do not need to carry out an EqHIA assessment. e.g. Quarterly Performance Report  
'NO' = you DO NOT need to carry out an EqHIA. Please provide a clear explanation as to why you consider an EqHIA is not required for your activity.

## Using the Checklist

The assessment should take into account all the potential impacts of the proposed activity, be it a major financial decision, or a seemingly simple policy change. Considering and completing this EqHIA will ensure that all Council plans, strategies, policies, procedures, services or other activity comply with relevant statutory obligations and responsibilities. In particular it helps the Council to meet its legal obligation under the [Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and its public health duties under the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

## Having Due Regard

To have due regard means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities, the Council must consciously consider the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes

## Combining Equality and Health Impact Assessment:

[Equality Impact Assessments \(EIAs\)](#) provide a systematic way of ensuring that legal obligations are met. They assess whether a proposed policy, procedure, service change or plan will affect people different on the basis of their 'protected characteristics' and if it will affect their human rights. Currently there are **nine protected characteristics** (previously known as 'equality groups' or 'equality strands'): age, disability, sex/gender, ethnicity/race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, and pregnancy/ maternity/paternity.

An activity does not need to impact on all 9 protected characteristics – impacting on just one is sufficient justification to complete an EqHIA.

[Health Impact Assessments \(HIAs\)](#) consider the potential impact of any change or amendment to a policy, service, plan, procedure or programme on the health and wellbeing of the population. HIAs help identify how people may be affected differently on the basis of where they live and potential impacts on health inequalities and health equity by assessing the distribution of potential effects within the population, particularly within vulnerable groups. 'Health' is not restricted to medical conditions, or the provision of health services, but rather encompasses the wide range of influences on people's health and wellbeing. This includes, but is not limited to, experience of discrimination, access to transport, housing, education, employment - known as the 'wider determinants of health'.

This [Equality and Health Impact Assessment \(EqHIA\)](#) brings together both impact assessments into a single tool which will result in a set of recommendations to eliminate discrimination and inequality; enhance potential positive impacts and mitigate where possible for negative impacts. In conducting this EqHIA you will need to assess the impact (positive, neutral or negative) of your activity on individuals and groups with **protected characteristics** (this includes staff delivering your activity), **socio-economic status** and **health & wellbeing**. Guidance on what to include in each section is given on the next pages.

### Guidance: What to include in background/context

In this section you will need to add the background/context of your activity, i.e. what is the activity intending to do, and why?

Make sure you include the scope and intended outcomes of the activity being assessed; and highlight any proposed changes. Please include a brief rationale for your activity and any supporting evidence for the proposal. Some questions to consider:

- What is the aim, objectives and intended outcomes?
- How does this activity meet the needs of the local population?
- Has this activity been implemented in another area? What were the outcomes?
- Is this activity being implemented as per best practice guidelines?
- Who were the key stakeholders in this activity?

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Who will be affected by the activity?

The people who will be affected may be

**Residents:** pay particular attention to vulnerable groups in the population who may be affected by this activity

**Businesses/ manufacturing / developers / small, medium or large enterprises**

**Employees:** e.g. Council staff for an internal activity, other statutory or voluntary sector employees, local businesses and services

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: What to include in assessing a Protected Characteristic e.g. AGE

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

**Overall impact:** In this section you will need to consider and note what impact your activity will have on individuals and groups (including staff) with protected characteristics based on the data and information you have. You should note whether this is a positive, neutral or negative impact.

**It is essential that you note all negative impacts. This will demonstrate that you have paid 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty if your activity is challenged under the Equality Act.**

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Evidence:** In this section you will need to document the evidence that you have used to assess the impact of your activity.

When assessing the impact, please consider and note how your activity contributes to the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as stated in the section above.

It is essential that you note the full impact of your activity, so you can demonstrate that you have fully considered the equality implications and have paid 'due regard' to the PSED should the Council be challenged.

- If you have identified a **positive impact**, please note this.
- If you think there is a **neutral impact** or the impact is not known, please provide a full reason why this is the case.
- If you have identified a **negative impact**, please note what steps you will take to mitigate this impact. If you are unable to take any mitigating steps, please provide a full reason why. All negative impacts that have mitigating actions must be recorded in the **Action Plan**.
- **Please ensure that appropriate consultation with affected parties has been undertaken and evidenced**

**Sources used:** In this section you should list all sources of the evidence you used to assess the impact of your activity. This can include:

- Service specific data
- Population, demographic and socio-economic data. Suggested sources include:
  - o Service user monitoring data that your service collects
  - o [Havering Data Intelligence Hub](#)
  - o [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)

If you do not have any relevant data, please provide the reason why.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: What to include in assessing Health & Wellbeing Impact:

Please tick (✓) all the relevant boxes that apply:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

**Overall impact:** In this section you will need to consider and note whether the proposal could have an overall impact on, or implications for, people's health and wellbeing or any factors which determine people's health.

How will the activity help address inequalities in health?

Include here a brief outline of what could be done to enhance the positive impacts and, where possible, mitigate for the negative impacts.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Do you consider that a more in-depth HIA is required as a result of this brief assessment?** Please tick (✓) the relevant box

Yes  No

**Evidence:** In this section you will need to outline in more detail how you came to your conclusions above:

- What is the nature of the impact?
- Is the impact **positive** or **negative**? It is possible for an activity to have **both positive and negative impacts**. Consider here whether people will be able to access the service being offered; improve or maintain healthy lifestyles; improve their opportunities for employment/income; whether and how it will affect the environment in which they live (housing, access to parks & green space); what the impact on the family, social support and community networks might be
- What can be done to mitigate the negative impacts and/or enhance the positive impacts?
- If you think there is a **neutral impact**, or the impact is not known, please provide a brief reason why this is the case.
- What is the likelihood of the impact? Will the impact(s) be in weeks, months or years? In some cases the short-term risks to health may be worth the longer term benefits.
- Will the proposal affect different groups of people in different ways? A proposal that is likely to benefit one section of the community may not benefit others and could lead to inequalities in health.

**Please use the Health & Wellbeing Impact Tool in Appendix 2 as a guide/checklist to assess the potential wider determinants of health impacts.**

This tool will help guide your thinking as to what factors affect people's health and wellbeing, such as social support, their housing conditions, access to transport, employment, education, crime and disorder and environmental factors. It is not an exhaustive list, merely a tool to guide your assessment; there may be other factors specific to your activity.

Some questions you may wish to ask include:

- Will the activity impact on people's ability to socialise, potentially leading to social isolation?
- Will the activity affect a person's income and/or have an effect on their housing status?
- Is the activity likely to cause the recipient of a service more or less stress?
- Will any change in the service take into account different needs, such as those with learning difficulties?
- Will the activity affect the health and wellbeing of persons not directly related to the service/activity, such as carers, family members, other residents living nearby?
- If there is a short-term negative effect, what will be done to minimise the impact as much as possible?



- Are the longer-term impacts positive or negative? What will be done to either promote the positive effects or minimise the negative effects?
- Do the longer term positive outcomes outweigh the short term impacts?

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Sources used:** In this section you should list all sources of the evidence you used to assess the impact of your activity. This could include, e.g.:

Information on the population affected

- Routinely collected local statistics (e.g. quality of life, health status, unemployment, crime, air quality, educational attainment, transport etc.)
- Local research/ Surveys of local conditions
- Community profiles

Wider Evidence

- Published Research, including evidence about similar proposals implemented elsewhere (e.g. Case Studies).
- Predictions from local or national models
- Locally commissioned research by statutory/voluntary/private organisations

Expert Opinion

- Views of residents and professionals with local knowledge and insight

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Outcome of the Assessment

On reflection, what is your overall assessment of the activity?

The purpose of conducting this assessment is to offer an opportunity to think, reflect and **improve** the proposed activity. It will make sure that the Council can evidence that it has considered its due regard to equality and health & wellbeing to its best ability.

It is not expected that all proposals will be immediately without negative impacts! However, where these arise, what actions can be taken to mitigate against potential negative effects, or further promote the positive impacts?

Please tick one of the 3 boxes in this section to indicate whether you think:

1. all equality and health impacts are adequately addressed in the activity – proceed with your activity pending all other relevant approval processes
2. the assessment identified some negative impacts which could be addressed – please complete the Action Plan in Section 4.
3. If the assessment reveals some significant concerns, this is the time to stop and re-think, making sure that we spend our Council resources wisely and fairly. There is no shame in stopping a proposal.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Action Plan

For each protected characteristic/health & wellbeing impact where an impact on people or their lives has been identified, complete one row of the action plan. You can add as many further rows as required.

State whether the impact is Positive or Negative

Briefly outline the actions that can be taken to mitigate against the negative impact or further enhance a positive impact. These actions could be to make changes to the activity itself (service, proposal, strategy etc.) or to make contingencies/alterations in the setting/environment where the activity will take place.

For example, might staff need additional training in communicating effectively with people with learning difficulties, if a new service is opened specifically targeting those people? Is access to the service fair and equitable? What will the impact on other service users be? How can we ensure equity of access to the service by all users? Will any signage need changing? Does the building where the service being delivered comply with disability regulations?

## Guidance: Review

Changes happen all the time! A service/strategy/policy/activity that is appropriate at one time, may no longer be appropriate as the environment around us changes. This may be changes in our population, growth and makeup, legislative changes, environmental changes or socio-political changes.

Although we can't predict what's going to happen in the future, a review is recommended to ensure that what we are delivering as a Council is still the best use of our limited resources. The timescale for review will be dependent on the scale of the activity.

A major financial investment may require a review every 2-3 years for a large scale regeneration project over 10-15 years.

A small policy change may require a review in 6 months to assess whether there are any unintended outcomes of such a change.

Please indicate here how frequently it is expected to review your activity and a brief justification as to why this timescale is recommended.

## Appendix 2. Health & Wellbeing Impact Tool

Will the activity/service/policy/procedure affect any of the following characteristics? Please tick/check the boxes below

The following are a range of considerations that might help you to complete the assessment.

Lifestyle YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Personal circumstances YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Access to services/facilities/amenities YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diet <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise and physical activity <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure to passive smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol intake <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency on prescription drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Illicit drug and substance use <input type="checkbox"/> Risky Sexual behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Other health-related behaviours, such as tooth-brushing, bathing, and wound care	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure and cohesion of family unit <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood development <input type="checkbox"/> Life skills <input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety <input type="checkbox"/> Employment status <input type="checkbox"/> Working conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Level of income, including benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Level of disposable income <input type="checkbox"/> Housing tenure <input type="checkbox"/> Housing conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Educational attainment <input type="checkbox"/> Skills levels including literacy and numeracy	<input type="checkbox"/> to Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> to Workplaces <input type="checkbox"/> to Housing <input type="checkbox"/> to Shops (to supply basic needs) <input type="checkbox"/> to Community facilities <input type="checkbox"/> to Public transport <input type="checkbox"/> to Education <input type="checkbox"/> to Training and skills development <input type="checkbox"/> to Healthcare <input type="checkbox"/> to Social services <input type="checkbox"/> to Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> to Respite care <input type="checkbox"/> to Leisure and recreation services and facilities
Social Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Social contact <input type="checkbox"/> Social support <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourliness <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the community <input type="checkbox"/> Membership of community groups <input type="checkbox"/> Reputation of community/area <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in public affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Level of crime and disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of crime and disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Level of antisocial behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of antisocial behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Public safety measures <input type="checkbox"/> Road safety measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Creation of wealth <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of wealth <input type="checkbox"/> Retention of wealth in local area/economy <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of income <input type="checkbox"/> Business activity <input type="checkbox"/> Job creation <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of education opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of education opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of training and skills development opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of training and skills development opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Technological development <input type="checkbox"/> Amount of traffic congestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality/Level of contamination/Odour <input type="checkbox"/> Noise levels <input type="checkbox"/> Vibration <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Land use <input type="checkbox"/> Natural habitats <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape, including green and open spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Townscape, including civic areas and public realm <input type="checkbox"/> Use/consumption of natural resources <input type="checkbox"/> Energy use: CO2/other greenhouse gas emissions <input type="checkbox"/> Solid waste management <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport infrastructure