

Public Realm Strategy
11 March 2013

Equality Impact Assessment

Public Realm Strategy

Contact: Hywyn Williams, Corporate Director:
Communities

Last Updated: 26.06.2013

1. What type of proposal is being assessed?

A strategic or service plan

2. Please, describe the purpose of this proposal

The proposal is for the drafting of a strategic plan, which intends to articulate the detail to support the delivery of the improvement objective "Clean and Tidy Streets" and components of "Developing the Local Economy" (Corporate Plan).

The aim of the strategy is to provide an appropriate level of information to those services that interact with the public realm, so that they can deliver improvements as intended by this improvement objective.

Council services will use this strategy to guide and support the coordination and delivery of works in the public realm, and because of this, they will need to consider the impact of their work on the protected characteristics.

3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)

Yes	A new strategic plan will require an assessment.
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4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

The first step taken was to aggregate national information and information from Denbighshire's equality research in relation to the Corporate Plan equality impact assessment. This information was secondary, i.e. an amalgamation of

information from other sources, which included primary research and engagement. This provides an overview of current knowledge, which was:

The Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to show due regard in relation to the provision of goods and services and employment. The general duty also aims to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity, and
- Foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics

Denbighshire Disabled People Guidance Document:

- The Equality Act introduced the principle of indirect discrimination for disability. This occurs when something applies in the same way to everybody but has an effect that particularly disadvantages, for example, disabled people. Indirect discrimination may be justified if it can be shown to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- The social model of disability says that disability is created by barriers in society. These barriers generally fall into three categories:
 - The environment – including inaccessible buildings and services
 - People’s attitudes – stereotyping, discrimination, and prejudice
 - Organisations – inflexible policies, practices, and procedures
- The priorities identified by disabled people, building on the Disability Wales Manifesto for Independent Living which was produced through engagement in 2010-11 include:
 - Information, advice, advocacy, and peer support
 - Accessible and supported housing
 - A barrier-free transport system
 - Accessible and inclusive places
 - Employment including self employment
- Disability Wales Streets Ahead research has highlighted barriers to accessing services categorised as:
 - Physical barriers – access into premises and their interior, such as lack of level access or ramps into premises, narrow width of doorway, wrong type of door entry and interior clutter.

The second step was to analyse the information from our sources to identify if there were any correlations with the proposals of the Public Realm Strategy and draw some conclusions.

The Equality Guidance Documents identify accessibility as a specific consideration in relation to the public realm. This is a key theme throughout the

proposed strategy and is highlighted in the first strategic principle accessible and well-connected public realm.

This strategy will need to consider the effect of changes made within the public realm, with an understanding that changes do not always have the same affect on everybody.

The strategy will need to be clear about the need to undertake individual Equality Impact Assessments on proposed projects in the Public Realm. This will have the benefit of:

- Ensuring minimal negative impact on any persons with protected characteristics, and
- Ensuring that reference is made to the principles, as identified in this strategy.

The actions identified in this Equality Impact Assessment, particularly the need to engage with people, will help the authority meet the general duty (Equality Act 2010) and also support recognised specific duties (e.g. collecting equality information).

5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

The Public Realm Strategy identifies four principles to support the decision-making process and ensure that public realm development reflects and addresses the challenges faced by the council

- **Accessible and a well-connected public realm**
- **Clean and tidy environment**
- **Local identity preserved and developed**
- **A safe environment**

This strategy will seek to ensure that the public realm is both accessible and able to be utilised by everyone, in line with the Equality Act 2010. The accessibility of the public realm is important in terms of social inclusion, so ensuring that the pedestrian environment is accessible to all. The accessibility of the pedestrian environment is important to meeting the needs of disabled people, but also contributes towards social inclusion and quality of life to a much wider section of the population (e.g. older people and parents).

The principles identified in the strategy offer support to a number of Equality Objectives, in particular:

- Reducing inequalities in personal safety, particularly the protected characteristics of age, gender, disability and sexual orientation, and
- Reducing inequalities in access to information, services, buildings and the environment, particularly in relation to disability

6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

Continued engagement with residents, in particular those of the noted protected characteristic (disability), will ensure the needs of all are accommodated and any potential disproportionate negative impact is minimised, avoiding potential discrimination (direct or indirect).

The production of any specific policies or the undertaking of physical works to improve the public realm should be Equality Impact Assessment on an individual basis to ensure they follow good practice and do not have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics.

7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?

Yes	<p>An early proposal identified the principle that, where possible, coastal areas should be maintained in their natural state. This had the potential to cause a negative impact on those who require a level of adjustment to enable access to the environment (protected characteristic: disability).</p> <p>Following consultation the proposal was redrafted a number of times and specific reference to the maintenance of coastal areas was removed.</p>
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8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

Yes	
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Action(s)	Owner	Date
Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on any project that will make changes to the public realm	Project Manager	In conjunction with project
When developing public realm projects, engage with people with protected characteristics, particularly disabled people, to identify potential barriers and good practice in the public realm	Project Manager	In conjunction with project

9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	Only required if the strategy document is changed
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Ewan McWilliams	26.06.2013

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.
