

Equality Impact Assessment

Context

1. under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010, when making decisions, Essex County Council must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, ie have due regard to:
 - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage/civil partnership
 - pregnancy/maternity
 - race
 - religion/belief
 - gender and sexual orientation.
3. In addition to the above protected characteristics you should consider the cross-cutting elements of the proposed policy, namely the social, economic and environmental impact (including rurality) as part of this assessment. These cross-cutting elements are not a characteristic protected by law but are regarded as good practice to include.
4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document should be used as a tool to test and analyse the nature and impact of either what we do or are planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.
5. Use the questions in this document to record your findings. This should include the nature and extent of the impact on those likely to be affected by the proposed policy.
6. Where this EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.
7. The EqIA will be published at:
<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Home.aspx>
8. All **Cabinet Member Actions, Chief Officer Actions, Key Decisions and Cabinet Reports must be** accompanied by an EqIA.
9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.
10. For advice, contact:
Shammi Jalota shammi.jalota@essex.gov.uk
Head of Equality and Diversity
Corporate Law & Assurance
Tel 0330 134592 or 07740 901114



Section 1: Identifying details

Your function, service area and team: Essex Housing

If you are submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team, specify the originating function, service area or team: NA

Title of policy or decision: Shenfield Library Re-development

Officer completing the EqlA: Daniel Taylor Tel: 07917 721205 Email: daniel.taylor@essex-housing.co.uk

Date of completing the assessment: 07/09/2021

Section 2: Policy to be analysed

2.1	Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project? Project
2.2	Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): development of Shenfield Library; re-providing the library on the existing site alongside an additional commercial space to be let to a commercial tenant and nine apartments for private sale. What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (ie decommissioning or commissioning a service)? • 9 high quality spacious apartments with balconies and parking spaces. • A flexible commercial space designed to host a complementary business while bringing income to the County Council. • A new public garden/outdoor learning/activity space to the front of the building surrounded by low level railings and gate • Optimised library floor space designed in a more flexible way and reduced under-utilised office space. • A larger and vastly improved meeting room for public use • A more sustainable building with photovoltaic cells, air source heat pumps, a green wall at the rear of the building and 100% electric car charging points.
2.3	Does or will the policy or decision affect: • service users • employees • the wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities? Yes. The development of this site will increase the supply of housing and improve the quality of library provision for all residents in the locality Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate? NO



2.4	Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources? NO
2.5	Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies and how, if applicable, does the proposed policy support corporate outcomes? Each of ECC's corporate objectives relate to and are impacted upon by housing which has been identified as a key cross-cutting theme.



Section 3: Evidence/data about the user population and consultation¹

As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, eg service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).

3.1	What does the information tell you about those groups identified? Data from housing authorities demonstrates a shortfall in housing completions in relation to projected requirements. This decision will contribute to addressing these shortfalls
3.2	Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision you want to implement? If so, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision? The Housing and Public Sector Land Project has consulted extensively with partner organisations (housing authorities, Police, Fire, health, Probation, Government Property Unit, Local Government Association, National Housing Association, Registered Providers etc) in the development of Essex Housing. Furthermore, the Project has involved People and Place Commissioning from the outset.
3.3	If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary: NA

¹ Data sources within EEC. Refer to Essex Insight:
<http://www.essexinsight.org.uk/mainmenu.aspx?cookieCheck=true>
with links to JSNA and 2011 Census.

Section 4: Impact of policy or decision

Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.

Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Age	Positive - the scheme will be designed to ensure that the library is accessible and suitable for older people	M
Disability	Positive - the scheme will be designed to ensure that the library is accessible and suitable for older people	M
Gender	Neutral	L
Gender reassignment	Neutral	L
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral	L
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral	L
Race	Neutral	L
Religion/belief	Neutral	L
Sexual orientation	Neutral	L
Cross-cutting themes		
Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Socio-economic	Positive. This decision will increase supply and therefore availability of housing. Housing development is a key enabler of economic growth.	H
Environmental, eg housing, transport links/rural isolation	Positive. This decision will build additional housing helping to meet housing needs in Essex.	H



Section 5: Conclusion

		Tick Yes/No as appropriate	
5.1	Does the EqlA in Section 4 indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	No ☐	
		Yes ☐	If ' YES ', use the action plan at Section 6 to describe the adverse impacts and what mitigating actions you could put in place.



Section 6: Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

What are the potential adverse impacts?	What are the mitigating actions?	Date they will be achieved.



Section 7: Sign off

**I confirm that this initial analysis has been completed appropriately.
(A typed signature is sufficient.)**

Signature of Head of Service: Gwyn Owen

Date: 07/09/21

Signature of person completing the EqlA: Dan Taylor

Date: 07/09/21

Advice

Keep your director informed of all equality & diversity issues. We recommend that you forward a copy of every EqlA you undertake to the director responsible for the service area. Retain a copy of this EqlA for your records. If this EqlA relates to a continuing project, ensure this document is kept under review and updated, eg after a consultation has been undertaken.

