

Appendix 3

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

Street Lighting Policy



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

Altogether Better guide to Equality Impact Assessments

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Section overview: this section provides an audit trail. | |
| Service/team or section: Street Lighting Team , Technical Services | |
| Lead Officer: Street Lighting Manager Service Improvement Officer (Equalities) | Start date:1 January 2013 |
| Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate) | |
| <p>The Council is reviewing its Street Lighting Policy which sets out the Council’s commitment to the provision of street lighting across the county.</p> <p>The term “street lighting” encompasses all illuminated assets on the adopted highway including street lights, signs, bollards and other street furniture.</p> <p>The main changes associated from the policy review are the inclusion of arrangements for removal of street lighting in areas where it is not deemed to be needed and also the implementation of “dimming” in some areas at certain times.</p> | |
| Who are the main stakeholders: Public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) – Residents; Elected Members; Visitors and Businesses; all highway users passing through the County. | |
| Is a copy of the subject attached? No Please contact – Strategic Highways, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services , Durham County Council | |
| Initial screening | |
| <p>The policy review confirms the approach to the provision of street lighting across the county which was adopted by the new Unitary Council; the main changes in relation to the refresh relate to the potential for the removal of street lighting installations in areas which fall outside of that agreed policy and also to the implementation of dimming in some areas. The policy outlines the approach which will be taken in relation to these changes; in relation to potential removals, this will involve a risk assessment process to ensure that the potential impact is fully assessed prior to the decision being taken.</p> <p>The screening has considered the potential impact against the protected characteristics; however it will be further developed once a public consultation has been undertaken to consider the impact of the policy proposals.</p> | |

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|------------|---|-----|---|----------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Gender | Y | Disability | Y | Age | Y | Race/ethnicity | ? | Religion or belief | N | Sexual orientation | N |
|--------|---|------------|---|-----|---|----------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Street lighting is primarily provided to improve safety standards for all highway users. Street lighting standards vary according to geographical location, population and road safety factors.

Removals: Changing the existing Street Lighting arrangements may result in some communities feeling more vulnerable to crime, but much depends on the specific circumstances as well as other factors such as crime rates, policing and quality of public spaces. The provision or lack of street lighting is a factor that for some people may affect their social exclusion during night time hours. Social exclusion may occur because of fears about community safety or road safety or because poorly lit areas are simply less attractive to visit. In particular, this may have a detrimental impact on women; the disabled and the elderly.

A lack of or reduction in street lighting may deter older people who are worried about falls.

Where there is existing street lighting not specifically required by this policy then this will be removed, where it is safe to do so, based on a risk assessment of road safety and the fear of crime. Traffic, accident and crime information will be used to support any decisions made in determining lighting changes

Dimming: it is considered that the 50% illumination is of a standard to allow safe use of both pavements and highways. Trials have shown that dimming at these levels is usually not perceptible to the human eye

The policy will be subject to public consultation

As part of this consultation we will engage with Area Action Partnerships by presenting the proposed updated policy to them and inviting comment as well as consulting with the County Durham Disability Partnership.

Decision: The assessment will be updated following consultation **Date:** 10 May 2013

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

| | Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups? | Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered. | What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan) |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Gender | Removal of street lighting installations may have an impact on women in terms of community safety. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision. |
| Age | Removal of street lighting installations may have an impact on the elderly in terms of community safety. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision. |
| Disability | Removal of street lighting installations may have an impact on disabled residents in terms of community safety. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision |
| Race/Ethnicity | Potential impacts will be given further consideration following the outcome of consultation. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision. |
| Religion or belief | There is no supporting evidence that there will be a disproportionate impact on religion/belief at this time. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision |
| Sexual Orientation | There is no supporting evidence that there will be a disproportionate impact on sexual orientation at this time. | | The views of this group will be captured as part of the consultation and will inform decisions relating to current levels of provision |

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

| Action to be taken | Officer responsible | Target Date | In which plan will this action appear |
|--|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| To ensure a robust consultation and engagement process with the public to enable capture of potential impacts of removing installations and implementing dimming | Street Lighting Manager and Communications and Marketing Team Leader | September 2013 | Consultation Plan |
| Review of the risk assessment process in relation to potential removal of installations to ensure impacts and mitigation are fully considered | Street Lighting Manager and Policy and Performance Team Leader | September 2013 | |
| EqIA to be reviewed in line with any changes generated through consultation | Street Lighting Manager and Service Improvement Officer (Equalities) | September 2013 | EqIA Plan |
| Monitoring of complaints and comments relating to the implementation of this policy | Service Improvement Officer (Equalities) | September 2014 | |
| When will this assessment be reviewed? | Date: Following Consultation | | |
| Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment? | | | |
| Head of Service - sign off: , Strategic Highways Manager | | | Date: 28/05/2013 |
| Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager | | | Date: 28/05/2013 |