

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

Street Naming and Numbering Policy



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

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: Traffic and Community Engagement Section , Strategic Highways, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services

Planning and Policy Officer, Neighbourhood Services

Start date:
25/01/2012

Lead Officer:

Strategic Highways Manager, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services

Area Traffic Manager (Area 2) Traffic and Community Engagement Section , Strategic Highways, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services

27/01/2012

Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)

The adoption of a new **Street Naming and Numbering Policy** for the county council following Local Government Reorganisation in 2009 and the transfer of this statutory function previously carried out by the former Borough and District Councils to the new unitary council. The following Acts of Parliament all inform this policy:

- Local Government Act 2003
- Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847
- Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907

This policy at the time of implementation follows best practice prescribed by the National Land and Property Gazetteer custodians at www.nlpg.org.uk.

Who are the main stakeholders: **General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other** (please specify) –

- Developer/Applicant/Householder
- Royal Mail
- Utilities

- Emergency Services
- Durham Constabulary
- All who work, live in and visit County Durham

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes / No

If not, where could it be viewed? Contact Traffic and Community Engagement Section , Strategic Highways, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services

Initial screening

The purpose of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy is to process all requests to name streets and to ensure that all properties in Durham are assigned an official address that is clear and unambiguous. In turn, this will ensure that council services, emergency services and other services are able to locate any property address. Anyone seeking an address change, or the creation of an address for a new property, must apply to Durham County Council following the procedures outlined in the new policy.

Implications for Service Delivery

It is important that we have a comprehensive Street Naming and Numbering Policy as we want to ensure:

- Emergency Services can find a property quickly
- Mail is delivered efficiently
- Visitors can easily find where they wish to go
- There is a reliable delivery of services and products
- Service providers have up to date and accurate records.
- The Council will bill the right person, in the right property, at the right time for Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

Implications for Service Users

This policy is transparent and inclusive and will not have any disproportionate impact on any of the equality strands. It is important however that the policy ensures that it contains clarity in relation to ensuring signage is accessible for disabled persons especially those with impaired vision.

Disability

The use of accessible nameplates is addressed within the policy where font, colour and placement requirements are clearly listed.

All street nameplates within County Durham will conform to specifications including:

- The text font to be used on all street nameplates is “Helvetica Medium”.
- All text shall be in upper case lettering only.
- The font size of the principal street name shall be 89mm in height.
- All letters shall be black on a non reflective, white background
- Street nameplates should be fixed as near as possible to street corners, so as to be easily readable by drivers as well as

pedestrians.

Although we do not provide street names plates as tactile signage or in Braille, if development in accessibility for disabled persons results in these being a feasible option we will consider revisiting our policy to include these advancements.

Race/ethnicity

County Durham has a population of 506,400 (source ONS 2007 population estimates) of which 96.43% class their ethnicity as white. One of the largest ethnic minority communities is Gypsies and Traveller. If the profile of the county was to change and if requests for the naming of streets in a second language were received consideration for a methodology for responding to requests for second language street names, including how views of residents are to be assessed and responded to will be considered and developed. The main stakeholders will be the people who live or work in the vicinity of the streets or roads under consideration; most specifically those people who live in that street or road.

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 a potential positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	N	Disability	Y	Age	N	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
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How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?

Reminder of our legal duties:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone's disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people
- Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Profile of the population of County Durham (source ONS 2007 population estimates) indicates that 96.43% of the population is white therefore inclusion of naming of streets in second language has not been an issue up to now. Over the last three years we have not received any requests for street names in a second language.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No **Date: 24/01/2012**

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	N/A	N/A	N/A
Age	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability	Needs of the visually impaired are considered and addressed by the use of accessible street signs.	The use of accessible nameplates is addressed within the policy where font, colour and placement requirements are clearly listed. The use of tactile and Braille signage is under development and may be available in the future.	If development in accessibility for disabled persons results in the availability of tactile and Braille signage consideration will be given to including a methodology for responding to these requests
Race/Ethnicity	We are unable to identify any impact on race/ethnicity as over the last three years we have not received any requests for street names in a second language.	Profile of the population of County Durham (source ONS 2007 population estimates) indicates that 96.43% of the population is white therefore inclusion of naming of streets in second language has not been an issue up to now.	Monitor requests received for street names in a second language and if the need arises consideration will be given to including a methodology for responding to requests for second language street names, including how views of residents are to be assessed and responded to will be developed.
Religion or	N/A	N/A	N/A

belief			
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A	N/A

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities? N/A

Section three: Review and Conclusion

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

The purpose of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy is to process all requests to name streets and to ensure that all properties in Durham are assigned an official address that is clear and unambiguous. In turn, this will ensure that Council services, emergency services and other services are able to locate any property address. Anyone seeking an address change, or the creation of an address for a new property, must apply to Durham County Council following the procedures outlined in the new policy. We do not have any evidence of requests for naming of streets in another language however if we were to consider this it would be in line with the history, heritage or environment of the town. Consultation with the people who live or work in the vicinity of the streets or roads under consideration would be taken to ensure that any decisions made would not create or add to any potential perceived community tensions. Consideration will also be given to requests for tactile and Braille signage, if developed.

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Monitor requests received for street names in a second language	Strategic Highways Manager	March 2013	Neighbourhood Services Equality Action Plan
We will explore options on responding to requests for second language street names, including how views of residents are to be assessed and responded to.	Strategic Highways Manager	August 2013	Neighbourhood Services Equality Action Plan
We will explore options including tactile and Braille signage requests, as well as how views of residents are to be assessed and responded to .	Strategic Highways Manager	August 2013	Neighbourhood Services Equality Action Plan
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: August 2013		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?			No
Lead officer - sign off: Strategic Highways Manager, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services			Date:27/01/2012
Service equality representative - sign off: Policy Performance and Communications Manager			Date: 30/01/2012

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

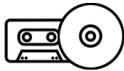
العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese) اردو (Urdu)
polski (Polish) ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) Español (Spanish)
বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)
Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)

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Braille



Audio



**Large
Print**