

Enfield Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Introduction

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to help Enfield Council make sure it does not discriminate against service users, residents and staff, and that we promote equality where possible. Completing the assessment is a way to make sure everyone involved in a decision or activity thinks carefully about the likely impact of their work and that we take appropriate action in response to this analysis.

The EqIA provides a way to systematically assess and record the likely equality impact of an activity, policy, strategy, budget change or any other decision.

The assessment helps us to focus on the impact on people who share one of the different nine protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 as well as on people who are disadvantaged due to socio-economic factors. The assessment involves anticipating the consequences of the activity or decision on different groups of people and making sure that:

- unlawful discrimination is eliminated
- opportunities for advancing equal opportunities are maximised
- opportunities for fostering good relations are maximised.

The EqIA is carried out by completing this form. To complete it you will need to:

- use local or national research which relates to how the activity/ policy/ strategy/ budget change or decision being made may impact on different people in different ways based on their protected characteristic or socio-economic status;
- where possible, analyse any equality data we have on the people in Enfield who will be affected eg equality data on service users and/or equality data on the Enfield population;
- refer to the engagement and/ or consultation you have carried out with stakeholders, including the community and/or voluntary and community sector groups you consulted and their views. Consider what this engagement showed us about the likely impact of the activity/ policy/ strategy/ budget change or decision on different groups.

The results of the EqIA should be used to inform the proposal/ recommended decision and changes should be made to the proposal/ recommended decision as a result of the assessment where required. Any ongoing/ future mitigating actions required should be set out in the action plan at the end of the assessment.

The completed EqIA should be included as an appendix to relevant EMT/ Delegated Authority/ Cabinet/ Council reports regarding the service activity/ policy/ strategy/ budget change/ decision. Decision-makers should be confident that a robust EqIA has taken place, that any necessary mitigating action has been taken and that there are robust arrangements in place to ensure any necessary ongoing actions are delivered.

SECTION 1 – Equality Analysis Details

Title of service activity / policy/ strategy/ budget change/ decision that you are assessing	Discretionary Energy Rebate
Lead officer(s) name(s) and contact details	Marc Pruis Marc.pruis@enfield.gov.uk
Team/ Department	Financial Assessments
Executive Director	Sue Nelson
Cabinet Member	
Date of EqIA completion	26/05/22

SECTION 2 – Summary of Proposal

Please give a brief summary of the proposed service change / policy/ strategy/ budget change/project plan/ key decision

Please summarise briefly:

What is the proposed decision or change?

What are the reasons for the decision or change?

What outcomes are you hoping to achieve from this change?

Who will be impacted by the project or change - staff, service users, or the wider community?

To seek approval of the proposals outlined within this report that detail how to distribute the £2,279,250 Discretionary Energy Rebate that is being funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The grant must be spent by 30 November 2022.

Councils can determine locally how best to make use of the funding for the Discretionary scheme.

i. This could include households living in property valued in bands E to H that are on income related benefits or those where the energy bills payers are not liable for council tax.

ii. Where councils consider it the best means of supporting those in financial difficulty, they can use the discretionary fund to offer carefully targeted 'top-up' payments to the most vulnerable households in bands A to D (for example, those on means tested benefits), or to offer discretionary support exceeding £150 per household.

iii. Occupants of class M (student halls) are unlikely to be eligible for discretionary support, unless they are exposed to rising energy prices in a similar way to other households.

iv. Discretionary support should not be offered to occupants of property in exemption class O, where the Ministry of Defence will provide cost of living support.

v. Support from the Discretionary Fund does not have to be provided in relation to the position on 1 April 2022.

The aim of this proposal, which responds to the Discretionary Energy Rebate grant allocation and guidance, is to use our experience gained so far to direct the limited grant funding at those most in need, with minimal administrative burden, and by accessing the best intelligence available on how to achieve this.

SECTION 3 – Equality Analysis

This section asks you to consider the potential differential impact of the proposed decision or change on different protected characteristics, and what mitigating actions should be taken to avoid or counteract any negative impact.

According to the Equality Act 2010, protected characteristics are aspects of a person's identity that make them who they are. The law defines 9 protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment.
4. Marriage and civil partnership.
5. Pregnancy and maternity.
6. Race
7. Religion or belief.
8. Sex
9. Sexual orientation.

At Enfield Council, we also consider socio-economic status as an additional characteristic.

“Differential impact” means that people of a particular protected characteristic (eg people of a particular age, people with a disability, people of a particular gender, or people from a particular race and religion) will be significantly more affected by the change than other groups. Please consider both potential positive and negative impacts, and, where possible, provide evidence to explain why this group might be particularly affected. If there is no differential impact for that group, briefly explain why this is not applicable.

Please consider how the proposed change will affect staff, service users or members of the wider community who share one of the following protected characteristics.

Age

This can refer to people of a specific age e.g. 18-year olds, or age range e.g. 0-18 year olds.

Will the proposed change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on people of a specific age or age group (e.g. older or younger people)?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.

This proposal is targeted at those in receipt of Council Tax Support, and potentially those occupying band E properties. Out of the 30,287 Council Tax Support claimants in Enfield we have 6,248 pensioners in Bands A-D, 1,171 in Band E out of a total of 3,190 claimants and a combined total of 1,569 in Bands E-H out of a total of 4,045 claimants. There is no differential impact on people of a specific age as the eligibility criteria are based on low-income residents and the funds should therefore be distributed proportionally.

Mitigating actions to be taken

None required.

Disability

A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-day activities.

This could include:

Physical impairment, hearing impairment, visual impairment, learning difficulties, long-standing illness or health condition, mental illness, substance abuse or other impairments.

Will the proposed change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on people with disabilities?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.

This proposal is targeted at those in receipt of Council Tax Support, and potentially those occupying band E. We have 35,669 Council Tax Support claimants in Bands A-H. 7,559 are in receipt of disability benefits.

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Gender Reassignment

This refers to people who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone a process (or part of a process) to reassign their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on transgender people?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.

There will be no impact on transgender people

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnerships are different ways of legally recognising relationships. The formation of a civil partnership must remain secular, where-as a marriage can be conducted through either religious or civil ceremonies. In the U.K both marriages and civil partnerships can be same sex or mixed sex. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on people in a marriage or civil partnership?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected

There will be no impact on people in a marriage or civil partnership

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Pregnancy and maternity

Pregnancy refers to the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on pregnancy and maternity?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected

There will be no impact on pregnancy/maternity

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Race

This refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on people of a certain race?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected

There will be no impact on race

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Religion and belief

Religion refers to a person's faith (e.g. Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism). Belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on people who follow a religion or belief, including lack of belief?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.

There will be no impact on race

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Sex

Sex refers to whether you are a female or male.

Will this change to service/policy/budget have a **differential impact [positive or negative]** on females or males?

Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.

There will be no impact on sex

Mitigating actions to be taken

None

Sexual Orientation

This refers to whether a person is sexually attracted to people of the same sex or a

<p>different sex to themselves. Please consider the impact on people who identify as heterosexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, non-binary or asexual.</p>
<p>Will this change to service/policy/budget have a differential impact [positive or negative] on people with a particular sexual orientation?</p> <p>Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.</p>
<p>There will be no impact on people with a particular sexual orientation</p>
<p>Mitigating actions to be taken</p>
<p>None</p>

<p>Socio-economic deprivation</p> <p>This refers to people who are disadvantaged due to socio-economic factors e.g. unemployment, low income, low academic qualifications or living in a deprived area, social housing or unstable housing.</p>
<p>Will this change to service/policy/budget have a differential impact [positive or negative] on people who are socio-economically disadvantaged?</p> <p>Please provide evidence to explain why this group may be particularly affected.</p>
<p>There will be a positive impact on some who are socio-economically disadvantaged as the proposals will support them with extra funds for food, utilities and energy costs. Data will be taken from residents in receipt of Council Tax Support.</p>
<p>Mitigating actions to be taken.</p>
<p>None</p>

SECTION 4 – Monitoring and Review

How do you intend to monitor and review the effects of this proposal?

Who will be responsible for assessing the effects of this proposal?

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will undertake a monthly DELTA collection exercise to monitor implementation progress

The Energy Rebate Project Board will assess the effects of the proposal in addition to the DLUHC.



SECTION 5 – Action Plan for Mitigating Actions.

Identified Issue	Action Required	Lead officer	Timescale/By When	Costs	Review Date/Comments