Reference: AF13646

Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment Form

Please read through the fact sheet about Preliminary Equality Impact Assessments before completing this form.

Service:

- [ ] Chief Executive
- [ ] Community
- [ ] Customer Services
- [ ] Democratic Services
- [ ] Directorate of Community and Environment
- [ ] Directorate of Resources and Audit
- [ ] Environmental Health Services
- [ ] Financial Services
- [ ] Housing Services
- [ ] Information Technology
- [ ] Legal Services
- [ ] Personnel Services
- [x] Planning Services
- [ ] Strategy and Communications
- [ ] Other

Section:	Building Control
Name of policy / function / service being assessed:	Building Control
Date of Assessment:	11 Mar 2009
Name of Officer completing assessment:	Tony Patterson/Geoff Saker

Because of this assessment, you will have checked that your policy, function or service does not have an adverse impact on target groups and you will have identified relevant action you need to take. The areas covered are race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, and religion / belief. This form can be used to assess policies, functions or services aimed at both external customers and internal staff.

1. Briefly describe the aims and the purpose of the policy / function / service.	- To provide control over the standard and quality of work in the borough through advice and site visits. - To provide third parties with advice and guidance on building issues.
2. What are the objectives?	To ensure the development of safe and accessible buildings.

3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy / function / service?	All users of buildings and the urban environment.
4. What outcomes are wanted from this?	- Acceptable standards in building construction in accordance with the requirements of the Building Regulations. - Acceptable standards of health and safety in relation to construction works.
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	- Financial - developers wishing to achieve maximum profit from their investment. - Lack of incentive - there is little to encourage developers and builders to go beyond the minimum required standards. - Quality of work - this is usually better on large scale developments and not as good on small schemes.
6. Who are the main stakeholders?	Rushmoor Borough Council, architects/designers, agents, builders, applicants.
7. Who implements the function / policy / service?	Building Control surveyors on behalf of the Council.
8. Who is responsible for the policy / function / service?	Head of Planning Services, Chief Building Control Surveyor

9. Are there concerns that the function / policy / service could have a differential impact:

On racial groups?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Due to gender (inc. transgender)?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Due to disability?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Due to sexual orientation?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Due to age?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Due to religion or belief?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

10. Do you have any existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) for any of your responses to Q9? (e.g. results of surveys/consultation, customer feedback)

There is no known evidence that regulations or advice provided by Building Control staff has given rise to discriminatory, differential or negative impact on grounds designated by the above categories. However, there is a need to check that the Building Control section of the website and Building Control documentation indicates the availability of alternative formats as and when required.

11 . Does this function / policy / service have any effect on good relations between the council and the community? If it damages good relations - explain why.

Relationships with BME and disabled people could be adversely affected if it is not clear that information is available in alternative formats.

12. Should the function / policy / service proceed to a full equality impact assessment? If yes, explain why.

No, as the actions proposed in section 13 should remove any potential for adverse impact.

13. If no to Q12, is there any further action(s) that should take place?

Make sure the website and Building Control documentation makes it clear that information is available in alternative formats.

Is a Full Equality Impact Assessment required?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No