

Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As a Local Authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development and changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy	Corporate Plan 2020- 2022
Lead Officer	Jonny Mallinson
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Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

In 2017 The BDDP set out the Borough's shared, 20-year vision for the future of Barking and Dagenham, in the form of the Borough Manifesto. The Manifesto represents the standard to which the Council holds itself and all our activity is aimed at achieving its vision.

The scale of this challenge requires a radical approach to preventing poor outcomes for our residents. Only by building a preventative system of public services and social infrastructure will we, with our partners and the community, be able to address the root causes of poverty, deprivation and health inequality and, ultimately, achieve the vision of the Borough Manifesto. At the heart of this preventative system is a commitment to addressing the structural inequalities faced by certain groups within our population.

The Council's long-term approach must also be supported by an approach to making decisions and planning activity that can respond to the rapidly changing needs of the community during and in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ongoing emergency response to the pandemic demands that the Council make decisions quickly and clearly in order to ensure it is supporting the residents of the Borough to remain safe and well.

With this context in mind, a new Corporate Plan has been developed to detail the Council's strategic framework, its priorities and its planned activity for the remainder of this political administration (2020-22).

The new Corporate Plan sets out the Council's strategic framework and translates that approach across four key strategic priorities:

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

1. Inclusive Growth
2. Participation and Engagement
3. Prevention, Independence and Resilience
4. Well Run Organisation

The Corporate Plan, and the content of the Single Performance Framework it introduces and appends, incorporates the existing [Equality and diversity strategy 2017-2021](#). The deliverables and objectives attached to this strategy remain live and the vision of a strategic framework with equality and diversity at its core remains the sentiment of the Corporate Plan and the long-term approach to public service reform it describes.

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
Look at what you know. What does your research tell you?

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out the organisation's strategic framework, including its priorities and associated workplan between 2020 and 2022. This EIA applies to the entire Corporate Plan. As such it does not cover, in detail, every planned initiative, service change and activity. Instead, it offers an overall analysis of the impact of structural inequalities for groups in our population with identified protected characteristics, before detailing several examples of activity described in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing these inequalities. For a full view of the Council's planned activity, and therefore a more detailed understanding of how it relates to specific groups of our residents, please see the Single Performance Framework.

What do we know about structural inequality in Barking & Dagenham?

Our understanding of structural inequalities in our population is constantly evolving, based on continued analysis of the protected characteristics and their association to a range of poor outcomes in our Borough. In the years ahead, we will continue to deepen and strengthen this analysis.

Overall

•211,998 residents - 7th smallest population in London

Age

- 57,865 under 16s - highest proportion in London and the UK
- 134,378 16 to 64s - 6th lowest proportion in London
- 19,755 over 65's - 7th lowest proportion in London
- 33.1 average age - lower than London average (36.4)

Disability

•16% of adults aged 16 and over are EA core or work limiting disabled – lower than the London average (16.6%)

Gender reassignment

•The 2021 Census will have a new voluntary question which asks 'is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?' This will provide insight currently unavailable to us.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Meaningful data will be provided by the 2021 Census.

Pregnancy and Maternity

•79.6 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age - highest in London

•25.1 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17 – highest in London

Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)

•64.9% Black and minority ethnic (BME) population - above London average (61.3%)

•After English, the five most common languages spoken are Bengali, Urdu, Romanian, Lithuanian and Yoruba.

Religion or belief

Sex

•62.8 male healthy life expectancy - below London average (63.9)

•62.3 female healthy life expectancy - below London average (64.6)

•13.7 domestic abuse offences per 1,000 people - highest in London

• 78% of police reported domestic abuse victims are female, 22% male

•93% of perpetrators male, 7% female

Sexual orientation

•The 2021 Census will include a voluntary question on sexual orientation.

Socio-economic Disadvantage

•5.5% unemployment - higher than London average (4.7%)

•71.3% employment - below London average (74.5%)

•1.4% income support claimants - highest in London

Deprivation in Barking and Dagenham

The index of multiple deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas or neighbourhoods in England. Barking and Dagenham has:

- the twenty first highest IMD score in England (based on 317 local authority districts, where 1 is the most deprived and 317 is the least deprived);
- the highest IMD score in London;
- neighbourhoods amongst the 10% most deprived in the country; (these neighbourhoods in Gascoigne, Heath, Thames and Village Wards)
- two wards (Gascoigne and Mayesbrook) where every neighbourhood is amongst the 20% most deprived in the country; and
- Only one ward, Longbridge, which has no neighbourhoods amongst the 30% most deprived in the country.

The Council's dedicated [Social Progress Index](#) is a tool which enables a holistic view of rates of social progress of different forms at ward-level across the Borough.

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	x			<p>A deliberate and nuanced approach to identifying structural inequalities and how they are experienced by the Borough's residents will improve the Council's ability to tackle structural inequality.</p>	<p>The approach to public service reform described in the Corporate Plan aims to build a preventative system of public services and social infrastructure capable of identifying and addressing the root causes of poverty, deprivation and health inequality.</p> <p>To do this, the Corporate Plan articulates the Council's understanding - using the best of its insight, intelligence and experience - of the root cause risk factors that are most strongly associated with manifestations of structural inequality in B&D. These are: Lack of affordable housing; inadequate or poor-quality housing stock; higher than average unemployment; low household income and low pay; debt; school exclusions and educational attainment; social isolation; mental wellbeing; substance misuse; and domestic abuse.</p> <p>These root causes are experienced differently by different parts of our community. Our ever-evolving analysis is increasingly driving the way in which the Council approaches policy-making and service design. A major priority through the delivery of the Corporate Plan will be to enhance the ways in which our understanding of these root causes drives change in the organisation.</p>

Age	x		<p>Several of the priorities identified in the Single Performance Framework – and particularly in the section themed ‘Prevention, Independence, and Resilience’ - focus on activity aimed at working with specific age cohorts to enable better outcomes and tackle inequalities.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The new target operating models for Early Help and Children’s Care and Support, the OFSTED Improvement Plan and the ‘Team Around the School’ approach will all aim at ensuring children and young people get the best start in life.</p> <p>The development of the assisted technology offer for socially isolated residents and those with complex needs will support adults with care and support needs, including older residents, to overcome structural barriers to living independent lives.</p> <p>The new assessment tool, developed with the BD_Collective, will explore new ways in which the social sector, Care and Support and Commissioning can collaborate to support older and vulnerable residents.</p>
Disability	x		<p>The Prevention, Independence and Resilience section of the Single Performance Framework (SPF) details a range of work to support residents with disabilities.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The new Target Operating Model for the Disability Service, and the multi-disciplinary arrangements for Looked After Children and in the Community Learning Disability Teams, will develop the Council’s approach to working with and supporting these residents.</p> <p>The new referral pathway and support offer for those diagnosed with learning/ physical disabilities and mental health conditions will enhance our ability to get the right support to residents with disabilities at the right time.</p>

Sexual orientation	x		<p>The Council is clear that the relationship between the LGBT+ community and public services across organisations in the Borough is strained and trust must be restored if we are to fully understand the lived experience of LGBT+ residents and seek to support them effectively. The work identified in the SPF contributes to this effort.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The Council's community development work with the LGBT+ community, in partnership with Studio 3 Arts, will explore issues of LGBT+ lived experience in Barking & Dagenham and identify ways in which different parts of the community, including the Council, can work together to tackle structural inequality and improve the relationship between LGBT+ residents and public services in the Borough.</p>
Gender reassignment	x		<p>The Council has a clear understanding that issues and experiences related to gender reassignment can present structural inequalities, and the Council aims to enhance its understanding and approach as part of the wider LGBT+ community development work described above.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The LGBT+ community development work described above will include in scope the lived experience of residents who have and are going through gender reassignment.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership		X	<p>The Council's understanding of issues related to marriage and civil partnerships is limited and this is an area that the Council needs to and will do more to understand.</p> <p>One key issue the Council is aware of is that issues associated with marriage and civil partnership are particularly significant within the LGBT+ community, and this will inform the community development work described above.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The community development work described above will include in scope issues and experiences related to marriage and civil partnership.</p> <p>However, the Council's approach will need to evolve constantly as our understanding of the community develops. For instance, our work on marriage and civil partnership – and how it intersects with experiences of structural inequality – is currently limited and this could be an area for improvement over the coming years.</p>

Pregnancy and maternity	X	x	<p>A range of activity described in the Prevention, Independence and Resilience section of the SPF will support mothers with young children and new families to get the support they need.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>To help the Council put early intervention at the centre of how we interact with residents and support the delivery of our strategic objectives, we are partnering with the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) to deliver the Early Years Transformation Academy (EYTA). The Academy will offer learning opportunities to staff across local maternity and early years services and help us develop a maternity and early years transformation plan, based on best practice and guidance from experts in The Staff College, Born in Bradford and Better Start Bradford.</p> <p>As part of this work we are in the process of setting up a specialist pre-birth team in the assessment service, supported by a new pre-birth referral pathway and operational arrangements to deliver a multi-disciplinary approach to assessment and care planning, ensuring early permanence for babies born to vulnerable parents.</p>
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)	x		<p>The SPF identifies the Council's strong cohesion agenda which works to bring residents from different backgrounds together to overcome inequality and discrimination.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The SPF incorporates the Council's cohesion agenda as described in its Cohesion and Integration Strategy, which aims to ensure everyone experiences Barking and Dagenham as 'a friendly and welcoming Borough with strong community spirit'.</p> <p>The Council's cultural and events programmes are closely linked and part of its cohesion agenda, with programmes such as the Summer of Festivals bringing residents from different backgrounds together to celebrate a shared and diverse culture.</p> <p>The cohesion agenda ultimately seeks to understand and address any discrimination occurring along the lines of race and belief.</p>

Religion or belief	x		<p>The Corporate Plan describes close collaboration with the faith sector to work with residents of faith and faith organisations across the Borough.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The Council's Faith Policy – Faith Builds Community – has been co-produced with faith organisations across the Borough to act as a plan of action to enhance collaboration between public services and the faith sector, in which we all have a part to play.</p> <p>The joint work programme being established, described in the SPF, to implement the new policy will enhance the role played by faith organisations in securing positive community impact, and seek to address discrimination in activity along the lines of faith.</p>
Sex	x		<p>The Council understands that residents have significantly different lived experience and experience different forms of structural inequality through the lens of their sex. Much of the Council's activity seeks to address these forms of structural inequality and understand them more.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>Domestic abuse is a particularly prevalent issue in Barking and Dagenham, having the highest Police reported rates of both national and local data on police reported domestic abuse, show that women are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than men, and men are more likely to be perpetrators – within Barking and Dagenham, 78% of police reported domestic abuse victims were female, and 22% were male, with 93% of perpetrators male and 7% of perpetrators female.</p> <p>The Council is taking a gender-informed approach to this key issue by establishing the Domestic Abuse Commission, which is seeking to understand community attitudes towards and perceptions of domestic abuse to inform how a community, and Council, such as Barking and Dagenham can approach domestic abuse from a preventative perspective.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Socio-economic Disadvantage</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>		<p>The Council's entire inclusive growth agenda, identified in that section of the SPF, aims to ensure every resident of the Borough can benefit from its growth and actively, fairly and positively engage in the local economy. A wide range of its activity, therefore, aims to support those experiencing or at-risk of socioeconomic disadvantage.</p>	<p>Examples of activity detailed in the Single Performance Framework aimed at addressing experience of this protected characteristic...</p> <p>The Council will ensure that at least 2,000 new affordable homes are built between 2019 and 2023 through a combination of Be First and other developers, improving the affordable housing offer for local residents.</p> <p>Reside's offer is improving the affordable housing offer for residents, particularly in the private rented sector.</p> <p>The Council's work on jobs, within its Inclusive Growth agenda, is seeking to ensure there are clear, accessible pathways into secure careers available for local residents, whether that's through its social value approach, its work with the construction, care and food sectors, or its business support offer.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Any community issues identified for this location?</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-</p>	<p>The Corporate Plan describes the Council's overall approach to working across the Borough, and it therefore applies to the whole Borough.</p>

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

The Council's approach to public service reform, captured in this Corporate Plan, is fuelled by and dependent upon ongoing participation and engagement of a variety of forms. This includes large-scale engagement exercises, such as that which co-produced the Borough Manifesto or, more recently, shaped the 'Borough and Me' programme and wider inclusive growth agenda. It also includes in-built mechanisms for resident and service user co-production, participation and engagement within frontline public services such as in Care and Support and Community Solutions. And it includes ongoing mechanisms and avenues for resident participation such as through the operation of the Neighbourhood Fund, or workshops and collaboration with the local social sector.

Within the workforce, a range of activity over the past year has sought to build on the programme of engagement which previously shaped Ambition 2020. This has included focus groups, consultations and workshops. And more recently, the 'join the conversation' programme of activity has commenced to improve the collective understanding of what the workforce believe enables the form of public service described in the Corporate Plan, how we could work more widely according to the principles of this document, and what gets in the way.

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented? <i>These actions should be developed using the information gathered in Section 1 and 2 and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.</i>		
Action	By when?	By who?
The Corporate Plan and the approach to reform it describes is dependent upon ongoing engagement and an ever-improving approach to data, insight and intelligence. Constant iteration of our understanding of the root causes of poverty and inequality will be crucial to honing the Council's approach, and this is dependent upon a range of parts of the Council and forms of activity.		

4. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Divisional Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Mark Tyson	Director of Policy and Participation	01/04/2020