

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool

Equality Impact Assessments help the Council to comply with its public sector duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to equality implications. EIAs also help services to be customer focussed, leading to improved service delivery and customer satisfaction.

The Council understands that whilst its equalities duty applies to all services, it is going to be more relevant to some decisions than others. We need to ensure that the detail of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are proportionate to the impact of decisions on the equality duty, and that in some cases a full EIA is not necessary.

This tool assists services in determining whether plans and decisions will require a full EIA. It should be used on all new policies, projects, functions, staff restructuring, major development or planning applications, or when revising them.

Full guidance on the Council's duties and EIAs and the full EIA template is available at [Equality Impact Assessments](#).

Proposal/Project/Policy Title	Dynamic Purchasing System for Disabled Adaptation Works and Services
Service Area	Commissioning, Adults Care & Support
Officer completing the EIA Screening Tool	Louise Hider-Davies, Head of Commissioning
Head of Service	Louise Hider-Davies, Head of Commissioning
Date	07/02/2023
Brief Summary of the Proposal/Project/Policy Include main aims, proposed outcomes, recommendations/decisions sought.	The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham are required, under the Equality Act 2010 and Care Act 2014, to make reasonable adjustments to meet identified needs of persons living in council properties. Additionally, the Council has a statutory duty to approve mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) for adaptations to the home environment to promote independence and keep people living in their own homes in safety and with dignity for longer. Adaptations can help to prevent or delay the need for care and support, both of which are central themes of the Care Act 2014; where adaptations cannot be progressed quickly, this can significantly impact upon resident outcomes and wellbeing. It is therefore critical that adaptations are provided quickly and efficiently to support residents to stay living in their homes, reducing unnecessary reliance on hospital beds and residential placements and the associated decline in independence and quality of life.

	<p>Since 2019, the Council have successfully used the Plymouth City Council Adaptation, Repair, Maintenance and Improvement (ARMI) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) provided by Independence CIC (INCIC) to facilitate and manage Barking and Dagenham's Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) for disabled adaptation works and services within private properties, providing a cost-efficient solution enabled by flexibility, economies of scale and increase competition amongst suppliers to drive down prices to offer savings. Additionally, since 2021, approval was granted to expand the use of the DPS for disabled adaptation works and services to Council properties to expedite clearing the backlog of jobs which has accumulated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic within the Barking and Dagenham Management Service (BDMS). This has provided a more efficient and cost-effective means for new jobs to be completed.</p> <p>To ensure that the Council meets its legal duties and strategic priorities in the most efficient and economically advantageous way, approval is sought to renew the access and use of the DPS for disabled adaptation works and services to both private and Council properties. This will support better service equity across the borough, ensuring that vulnerable residents will receive disabled adaptations in a timely way and to a high-quality standard irrespective of tenure.</p>	
Protected characteristic	Impact	Description
Age	Positive impact (L)	The DPS itself is a mechanism by which adaptations jobs can be compliantly procured. However, the use of the DPS for adaptations works will support residents of all ages to live independently and delay the need for long-term care. There is no age range, jobs relating to adaptations will be placed on the DPS and will apply to any resident, adult or child. Eligibility will be subject to the assessment of an OT.
Disability	Positive impact (L)	The use of the DPS will enable adaptations to be made to the home environment as quickly as possible to promote independence and keep people living in their own homes in safety and with dignity for longer. Adaptations can help to prevent or delay the need for care and support, both of which are central themes of the Care Act 2014; where adaptations cannot be progressed quickly, this can significantly impact upon resident outcomes and wellbeing. It is therefore critical that adaptations are provided quickly and efficiently to support residents to stay living in their homes, reducing unnecessary reliance on hospital beds and residential placements and the associated

		<p>decline in independence and quality of life. The DPS will facilitate the quick and efficient procurement of contractors to undertake jobs. During 22/23 the majority of jobs were turned around within 6 weeks.</p> <p>The 2021 Census suggested that 1 in 11 people (9%) were identified as being disabled and limited a lot in Barking and Dagenham. The DPS will assist with adaptations for these individuals.</p>
Gender re-assignment	Not applicable (N/A)	There is lack of available data around gender-reassignment in LBBB, but there are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic.
Marriage and civil partnership	Not applicable (N/A)	There are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic
Pregnancy and maternity	Not applicable (N/A)	<p>There are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic.</p> <p>A resident's pregnancy is not considered unless it is contributing to their disability.</p>
Race	Positive impact (L)	There are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic. The borough has a diverse population. The OT service and the Equipment and Adaptations service offer a language translation service by the language shop at the point of assessment and during the installation of adaptations within properties.
Religion	Not applicable (N/A)	There are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic
Sex	Not applicable (N/A)	There are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic.
Sexual orientation	Not applicable (N/A)	There is lack of available data around sexual orientation in LBBB, but there are no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic.
Socio-Economic Disadvantage¹	Not applicable (N/A)	The DPS itself is a mechanism by which adaptations jobs can be compliantly procured. The DPS therefore has no perceived negative impacts on this protected characteristic. However, adaptations can be subject to a means test as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant process. The associated EIA screening tool which covers this (as part of the Aids and Adaptations Policy 22-25)

¹ Socio-Economic Disadvantage is not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has chosen to include Socio-Economic Disadvantage as best practice.

		can be found by accessing: Aids and Adaptations - App B.pdf (lbbd.gov.uk)
How visible is this service/policy/project/proposal to the general public?		Low visibility to the general public (L)
What is the potential risk to the Council's reputation? Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc		Medium risk to reputation (M)

If your answers are mostly H and/or M = **Full EIA to be completed**

If after completing the EIA screening process you determine that a full EIA is not relevant for this service/function/policy/project you must provide explanation and evidence below.

<p>As a result of this screening tool, no negative or high risks have been identified. It has therefore been concluded that a full EIA is not relevant for this procurement.</p> <p>There is a higher risk to the Council if the DPS is not implemented which could impact upon the number, speed, efficiency and quality of adaptations that can be procured and installed for disabled people.</p> <p>The DPS itself is a mechanism by which adaptations jobs can be compliantly procured. However, the use of the DPS for adaptations works will support residents of all ages to live independently and delay the need for long-term care. There is no age range, and adaptations can be installed for an adult or a child, subject to an OT assessment.</p> <p>Eligibility will be subject to the resident's disability and needs. The focus of using the DPS is to ensure that adaptations works can be installed quickly and efficiently for disabled residents using quality contractors, thereby enabling residents to continue living independently at home.</p> <p>There are no perceived negative impacts, only positive impacts, to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 and to the socioeconomically disadvantaged of using the DPS for adaptations works. However, as stated above, the Aids and Adaptations Policy outlines the approach to the means testing of adaptations for Disabled Facilities Grants and this can be found in the EIA screening tool for that policy, here: Aids and Adaptations - App B.pdf (lbbd.gov.uk)</p> <p>Feedback will be sought from residents to ensure continuous service improvement. This will be done via a 2-tier referral process, the first being feedback of the assessment itself and the second being comprehensive feedback of the adaptation that was installed and the contractors procured via the DPS.</p> <p>The DPS will be reviewed to ensure it is working well. Data will be stored regarding the adaptations jobs and the ages, tenure and ethnicity of applicants. This data can then be used to review the success of the policy and review who are benefiting from it the most and to ensure service equity.</p>
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