

Diversity impact assessment

TITLE <i>Name/description of the issue being assessed</i>	Council Strategy
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DATE <i>Date the DIA is completed</i>	10 September 2019
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LEAD OFFICER <i>Name of person responsible for carrying out the DIA.</i>	Katey Durkin Head of Finance Strategy
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1 Summary description of the proposed change

- *What is the change to policy/service/new project that is being proposed?*
- *How does it compare with the current situation?*

The Council Strategy sets the Council's vision and high level priorities where available resources will be concentrated. The Council's vision and priorities as set out in the strategy will be delivered by the Council Plan and other key strategies. The current Council Plan was agreed in February 2016 and covers the Council's strategic objectives up until 2021.

This strategy does not represent a departure from the priorities as set out in the Council Plan and no reduction of cessation in service delivery is implied through the production of this strategy; consequently it is unlikely that there will be any adverse impact on any protected characteristic groups as a result of these proposals.

All Directorates have been consulted as part of this review.

2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

- *Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user records etc.*
- *Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile*

All Directorates have been consulted.

The Corporate Management Team have discussed the Strategy at its meeting on 7 August 2019.

All directorate feedback has been incorporated into the Strategy, which has been considered by Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 August 2019, will be considered by Cabinet on 24 September 2019 and Full Council on 10 October 2019.

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3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to :

- Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups?
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't?

(insert ✓ in one or more boxes)

Protected characteristic groups	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age		✓	✓
Disability		✓	✓
Gender reassignment		✓	✓
Marriage/civil partnership		✓	✓
Pregnancy/maternity		✓	✓
Race		✓	✓
Religion/belief		✓	✓
Sex		✓	✓
Sexual orientation		✓	✓
Other (eg low income groups)		✓	✓

4 Summary of the likely impacts

- Who will be affected?
- How will they be affected?

There is not likely to be any adverse impact on any protected characteristic groups as a result of the proposed Strategy.

Each Directorate is expected to ensure that Diversity Impact Assessments are carried out as part of the development of their Divisional and Service planning processes where this results in the changing of policies and processes to reflect the Council Strategy and Plan. This is linked to the annual budget setting process.

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5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

- Are there alternative providers?
- What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?
- Can demand for services be managed differently?

Medway will continue to use the DIA process to assess its decision-making processes to ensure fair and transparent access to services by residents with different equalities requirements.

The accessibility of services provided by Medway will continue to be monitored by the Equalities Access Group and reported as part of the Medway's annual report on 'Delivering Fair & Responsive Services'.

6 Action plan

- Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
No additional actions recommended		

7 Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be:

- to proceed with the change implementing action plan if appropriate
- consider alternatives
- gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

Directorates continue to apply the Council Equalities policy, when developing new projects, policies and strategies.

8 Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that:

- the recommendation can be implemented
- sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned
- the Action Plan will be incorporated into service plan and monitored

Assistant Director

Phil Watts Chief Finance Officer

Date

10 September 2019

Contact your Performance and Intelligence hub for advice on completing this assessment

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