

# **Equality Impact Assessment Template (EqIA)**

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a tool to understand the effects a decision will or is likely to have on people, specifically those people who have one or more protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

It is an evidence-based approach and aims to ensure that decision-making processes are fair and do not present barriers to participation or create disadvantage for protected groups.

The EqIA should be started early on in a project before any decision is made. It can also be used:

- As a service improvement tool, and
- To assess the implications of strategic and operational decisions.

In this way, we can help ensure we do not discriminate, and promote equality.

#### What is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)?

The PSED under the <u>Equality Act 2010</u> requires that in the exercise of its functions, Waltham Forest Council must have due regard whilst seeking and evidencing ways that we:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination including victimisation or harassment
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- foster or encourage good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

The PSED helps the council meet its legal duties and to become more accountable, inclusive, credible and community orientated.

#### Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of a protected characteristic. These are:

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnicity and race
- Religion or belief
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership

An EqIA enables officers to assess the impact of proposed decisions on people with these characteristics.

#### Protected characteristics as determined by Waltham Forest Council

In addition to our statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010, Waltham Forest Council include Care Leavers as having a protected characteristic and to this extent passed a motion in April 2023 to recognise this action. Therefore, Waltham Forest Council's EqIA process also includes a requirement to explore the impact of a proposal on that group.

#### Additional groups that face structural inequalities

As a Council, we are committed to tackling structural disadvantages faced by our residents. We encourage staff to think about how a decision, proposal or policy might affect wider groups who are not covered by the Equality Act, but still experience relative material or social disadvantage in accessing opportunity.

The State of the Borough report identifies a number of additional groups that should be taken into account:

- Those who face socio-economic inequality (e.g. unemployment, low income, low academic qualifications) or live in areas of high deprivation
- Care Leavers
- People with caring responsibilities
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers
- Homeless people and people at risk of homelessness
- People who are experiencing long-term unemployment

There might be other disadvantaged groups that you know from your service data who might be adversely affected by your proposal or policy. You need to consider these groups as well as the protected characteristics above as part of your EqIA.

#### Carrying out an EqIA

When doing an assessment, you must answer these questions:

- Is the proposal, policy, or project likely to exclude or have a detrimental (harmful) effect on a specific group or community?
- Does it affect some groups or communities differently and can this be justified?
- How might it affect wider determinants (factors) such as income, housing, education, employment, neighborhoods, and communities that impact on health and well-being?
- Is the proposal, policy, or project likely to be equally accessed by all groups and communities? If not, can this be justified?
- Are there any barriers that might make it hard or stop different groups or communities accessing the proposal or policy to be delivered?
- Could the proposal or policy promote equality and good relations between different groups?

Service areas are responsible for ensuring EqIAs are started early on and should consult widely within their service to ensure they have considered all potential impacts. This should also include considering the impact on people who have identities that overlap e.g., intersectionality of gender, race, and disability for instance.

When completing a EqIA use data to help collate demographic evidence including:

- Census 2021 in Waltham Forest
- Statistics about the borough
- Other service specific data insights and sources, including data requests via Hornbill.

#### Guidance on compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty for officers and decision makers

- 1. The duty is mandatory and must be met by the decision-maker and not delegated. It is for the decision-maker to consider with help from the report and officer analysis.
- 2. EqIAs must be evidence-based and accurate negative impacts must be fully and frankly identified so the decision-maker can fully consider their impact.
- 3. There must be compliance with the duty when decisions, proposal or policies are being formulated by officers and then by members or officers when taking the decision. The Council cannot rely on an EqIAs produced after the

- decision is made but sometimes a "provisional" EqIA is appropriate eg. before consultation on a decision, proposal, or policy.
- 4. When an equality implication is identified, officers and members must give conscious and open-minded consideration to the equality duty when making a decision.
- 5. The duty is not, however, to achieve the three equality aims but to pay due regard when making the final decision therefore, the duty can encourage officers to amend or change a decision, proposal, or policy where an equality implication is identified, but it does not stop difficult but justifiable decisions being made e.g to no longer continue a service for instance.
- 6. The decision maker may take into account things that may objectively justify taking a decision which has negative impact on equalities, e.g. financial targets, value for money or service needs.
- 7. The duty is ongoing: EqIAs should be reviewed over time and should say how impact will be monitored after the decision.

#### **Positive action**

The Equality Act allows 'positive action' to tackle disadvantage faced by those sharing a protected characteristic, even if it has the consequence of disadvantaging those sharing a different protected characteristic. Positive action can be justified where it is proportionate. Positive action is different from positive discrimination, which is unlawful.

An example of unlawful positive discrimination would be where an employer recruits a person because they have a relevant protected characteristic rather than because they are the best candidate. For example, it would be unlawful to hire someone simply because their team was under-represented by woman and the candidate is hired because they are a woman.

However, if under-representation is an identified issue, then you could take steps to promote vacancies to this group or provide extra support for them to apply. This is positive action.

The difference between positive action and positive discrimination can be difficult to define and is determined by the particular situation. It is important to reflect upon whether any element of your service necessitates positive action. It is critical that you satisfy your duty under the Equality Act and therefore if you have any concerns, please seek further guidance/or legal advice before continuing.

# **EdyEquality Impact Assessment Template (EqIA)**

# **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

Section 1: About the proposal, policy or project
Name of proposal, policy, or project:
Council Tax Support Scheme 2026-2027
Name of lead officer and contact details:
Eamonn Hennessy – <u>Eamonn.hennessy@walthamforest.gov.uk</u> – 07507 594 880
Name of service and directorate for this proposal, policy, or project:
Benefits Service - Resources
Strategic Director responsible for this proposal, policy, or project:
Rob Manning – Strategic Director of Resources
Date the EqIA was started:
10.09.2025
What kind of proposal, policy or project is this assessment for?
Tick all that apply.
$lacktriangledown$ Change in service delivery or new service $\Box$
$lacktriangle$ Change in policy or new policy $\Box$
■ Grants and commissioning ⊠
■ Budget change or service cut ⊠
$lacktriangle$ Other $\Box$ - if ticked, please give more detail: Click or tap here to enter text.

# Section 2: Proposal, policy, or project summary

### Please give a summary of this proposal, policy, or project

Waltham Forest is proposing to continue with its existing Council Tax Support scheme from 1 April 2026. Council Tax Support is a reduction in the amount of Council Tax that working-age people on low income need to pay. In the context of the difficult financial challenges the Council is facing, the proposal for next year's Council Tax Support scheme aims to balance introducing a scheme which is affordable for Council, with targeting support toward those that need it most.

The key characteristics of Waltham Forest's existing Council Tax Support scheme a can be viewed in the table below.

The proposed Council Tax Support scheme
from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

An income-banded scheme.

Working-age residents would continue to be entitled to support of up to a maximum of 85%, depending on a person's level of income, household composition and level of capital. The maximum level of 85% would be limited households who satisfied the means-test

and either;

- a have at least one member with limited capability to work and/or;
- b are responsible for at least one child aged five and under.

For other eligible working-age residents, support would be given up to a maximum of 57%, also depending on the their level of income, household composition and level of capital.

Resident non-dependent adults are tiered within two levels for weekly contributions they're expected to make towards Council Tax: £8.00 or £20.00.

A person or couple with capital of more than £6,000.00 will not be eligible for a reduction.

The income bands are based on net earnings and can be viewed in the table below.

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Income bai	ncome bands (Net weekly earned income)							
Band	%	Single	Couple	Single, 1	Couple, 1	Single, 2+	Couple, 2+ Children	
	Support			Child	Child	Children		
Financially	85%	£0-£120	£0-£140	£0-£140	£0-£160	£0-160	£0-£180	
vulnerable								
groups								
Band 1	57%	£0-£120	£0-£140	£0-£140	£0-£160	£0-160	£0-£180	
Band 2	47%	£120-	£140-£190	£140-£190	£160-£210	£160-£210	£180-£230	
		£170						
Band 3	37%	£170-	£190-£230	£190-£230	£210-£250	£210-£250	£230-£270	
		£210						
Band 4	27%	£210-	£230-£270	£230-£270	£250-£290	£250-£290	£270-£310	
		£250						
Band 5	17%	£250-	£270-£310	£270-£310	£290-£330	£290-£330	£310-£350	
		£290						

The Council Tax Support scheme is projected to cost £19.95m in 2026/2027, representing an increase of £0.95m

#### Who will be affected by this proposal, policy, or project?

For example: staff, service users, or the wider community

The profile of Council Tax payers in Waltham Forest generally reflects that of the wider community. However, the profile of households in receipt of Council Tax Support differs from the wider community profile. This is a consequence of the nature of the support scheme, which provides help for Council Tax payers whose financial circumstances are not adequate to cover the Council Tax charge. Therefore, those households with higher outgoings, such as those receiving

disability benefits, families with children, non-working households living on welfare benefits, or in-work households that are in low paid employment will be over represented within the CTS caseload.

These proposals affect people of working age that are on low incomes.

All recipients would be considered to be at a socio-economic disadvantage, particularly people with disabilities, lone parents (more likely to be women), part-time workers (more likely to be women), large households (more likely to be from BME backgrounds) and young single people due to the greater impact the Government's welfare reform programme has had on this group.

## Section 3: Equality analysis.

#### Age

Households in receipt of Council Tax Support as at 10/09/2025						
Age of Claimant	18-24	25-49	50-65	66+	All Ages	
Male	133	1122	1668	2318	5241	
Female	146	3287	2669	3350	9452	
Total Claims	279	4409	4337	5668	14693	

Will the proposed change have a differential impact [negative] on people of a specific age or age group (e.g. older or younger people)? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating actions will be taken.

The CTS scheme only impacst working age residents in receipt of Council Tax Support. There are currently 9,025 working age households in receipt of Council Tax Support.

There will be £750,000.00 in Discretionary Council Tax Support Payments available to help households suffering financial hardship and struggling to pay their Council Tax.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed decision will have on people of a specific age or age group.

No changes have been made to the statutory pension aged Council Tax Support scheme, so those households within the borough will not be impacted.

Households with a child aged 5 or under will be eligible to receive up to 85% Council Tax Support provided they continue to meet other qualifying criteria.

#### Sex (gender)

	Households in receipt of Council Tax Support as at 10/09/2025						
Age of Claimant	18-24	25-49	50-65	66+	All Ages		
Male	133	1122	1668	2318	5241		
Female	146	3287	2669	3350	9452		
Total Claims	279	4409	4337	5668	14693		

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people of a specific sex (e.g. women, men)? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating actions will be taken.

The continuation of the scheme is not intended to impact one gender more than another. However, women will be more impacted because a larger cohort of those in receipt of Council Tax Support support.

We currently have 9,025 working age households in receipt of Council Tax Support, 6,102 (68%) of those are female, 2923 (32%) are male.

We will be using £750,000.00 in Discretionary Council Tax Support Payments to help households most in need of additional support in payment their Council Tax. We specifically plan to target support towards care leavers of which 100 (63.3%) of the 158 are male.

#### Highlight any positive benefits the proposal decision will have on people of a same or different sex (gender).

We will be using £750,000.00 in Discretionary Council Tax Support Payments to help households most in need of additional support in payment their Council Tax. Additionally, those in receipt of disability incomes will potentially be eligible for up to 85% support. 4414 of the 9025 working age residents are in receipt of disability incomes.

#### **Ethnicity and race**

Council Tax Support Caseload as at 10/09/2025							
	18-24	25-49	50-65	66+	All Ages		
Not Specified	0	43	140	217	400		
White: British	54	648	683	972	2357		
White: Irish	1	20	33	50	104		
White: Any Other	6	410	305	285	1006		
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	16	113	43	15	187		
Mixed: White & Black African	2	49	29	16	96		
Mixed: White & Asian	2	30	19	7	58		
Mixed: Any Other	5	75	41	16	137		
Asian / Asian British: Indian	3	49	41	83	176		
Asian / Asian British: Pakistani	6	328	258	267	859		
Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi	4	117	57	38	216		
Asian / Asian British: Any Other	37	159	132	133	461		
Black / Black British: Caribbean	22	308	242	240	812		
Black / Black British: African	26	486	282	201	995		
Black / Black British: Any Other	3	113	104	51	271		
Chinese	0	6	7	14	27		
Any Other	29	152	132	108	421		
Gypsy / Traveller	1	2	2	1	6		
Arab	6	78	47	13	144		
Claimant Declined	26	402	194	177	799		
Not set on claim	30	821	1546	2764	5161		
Total Claims	279	4409	4337	5668	14693		

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people of a certain race? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating actions will be taken.

There is no requirement for people applying for CTS to declare their ethnicity so the information available at a caseload level has been provided on a voluntary basis. Ethnicity information is known for 64.25% of working age cases.

The data above when analysed against the caseload suggests that most groups, regardless of ethnicity, have a lower percentage of people receiving CTS than their representation within the borough's population, where known. The borough level data when compared to the known Council Tax Support ethnicity data suggests that the most significant disparity is attributable to people who defined themselves as white (British, Irish & Other) 53% of the borough population compared to 15.94% of the working age Council Tax Support caseload.

However, the fact that CTS is paid to households on low income, may suggest that a higher percentage of white residents are in full-time or higher paid employment than some ethnic groups.

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African residents account for 21% of the borough and 17.57% of working age households in receipt of Council Tax Support.

#### Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people of a certain race.

To mitigate against the loss of support there will be £750,000.00 in Discretionary Council Tax Support Payments available to help households.

#### Religion or belief

The borough has a diverse range of faith communities. According to the 2021 Census, Christianity is the main religion in Waltham Forest, with 39 per cent of residents identifying as Christian. The second biggest religion is Islam with 22% of residents saying they are Muslims compared to 6.5% nationally. Other religions in the borough are Hindu (2.3% of residents), Buddhist (0.7%), Jewish (0.5%) and Sikh (0.5%). 28% of residents said they are secular/have no religion and 7% chose not to state their religion in the census.

Waltham Forest has around 150 Christian Churches, 16 Mosques, 4 Hindu Temples, 3 Synagogues, 1 Gurdwara and 1 Tao Temple. Note:

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people who follow a religion or belief, including lack of belief? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

We do not currently hold any additional data at a caseload level on religion or belief, therefore we cannot accurately identify whether a specific religious group would be more likely to be adversely impacted by the proposed changes.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people with different religions or beliefs (including a lack of belief).

We do not currently hold any additional data at a caseload level on religion or belief, therefore we cannot accurately identify whether a specific religious group would be more likely to be favourably impacted by the proposed changes.

#### Disability

The 2021 Census asked people to rate their health as very good, good, fair, bad or very bad. The data shows that around 17,000 residents of Waltham Forest considered their health to be bad or very bad (6.1% of the population). In addition, the 2021 census asked people if they had a health problem or disability that has lasted or was expected to last for at least 12 months and which limited the person's day-to-day activities, either a little or a lot. As many as 36,760 residents said in the census that their day-to-day activities are limited because of their health. This is made up of seven per cent of population who said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot (15,930 people) and eight per cent whose activities were limited a little (20,830). In total, this is 13 per cent of residents compared to 17.5 per cent nationally.

Health tends to deteriorate further with age with more than half of residents aged 65 and over (57 per cent) having a limiting long-term health problem or disability. Note: These statistics provide general data for this protected characteristic. You need to ensure you have sufficient information about those affected by the proposals.

For more detailed breakdowns or further information please contact the Data and Intelligence Team, Insight Team (insight@walthamsforest.gov.uk).

Council Tax Support Caseload as at 10/09/2025						
18-24 25-49 50-65 66+ All Age						
Disability Income						
Male	32	509	969	1145	2655	
Female	36	1136	1732	1806	4710	
Total Claims	68	1645	2701	2951	7365	

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people with disabilities? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

Our caseload data demonstrates that 4414 or 48.91% of working aged households are in receipt of a disability-related income.

Those in receipt of disability benefits are longer exempt from deductions from their support if they have a non-dependant adult living within their household with them. All non-dependant adults within households will be expected to contribute towards the Council Tax Bill.

#### Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people with a disability.

Working-age residents would be entitled to support of up to a maximum of 85%, depending on a person's level of income, household composition and level of capital and whether they fall within one of the protected groups:

- > households with limited capability to work;
- > households with children aged 5 and under.

For other eligible working-age residents, support would be given up to a maximum of 57%, also depending on the their level of income, household composition and level of capital.

The scheme is specifically designed to support those with disabilities that impact that capability to work. For example, those in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and the limited work capability component of Universal Credit.

In addition, all unearned income is disregarded in the proposed scheme which increases the amount of support residents in receipt of benefits and disability incomes will be eligible for.

#### **Sexual orientation**

In 2021, 4.5% of residents aged 16+ (10,000 people) in Waltham Forest identified their sexual identity as lesbian, gay or bisexual, placing Waltham Forest as 13th highest in London and 31st in England & Wales. This comprised of: 2.3% who identified as gay or lesbian 1.6% who identified as bisexual. 0.6% with other sexual orientations 1.1% of the population (2,400 people) identified as a gender different from their sex assigned at birth. The likelihood of an adult identifying as LGBT decreased with age. In 2021, 4.5% of adults aged 16 to 24 identified as LGB+, which decreased to 0.1% of adults aged 65 and over. (Source: Census 2021).

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people with a particular sexual orientation? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

We do not currently hold information at a caseload level on sexual orientation for those individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people who identify as heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian or asexual.

We do not currently hold information at a caseload level on sexual orientation for those individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support.

#### Pregnancy and maternity

In 2022, a total of 4,040 children were born in Waltham Forest. The General Fertility Rate (number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44) in the borough is 60.3) compared to the London average of 50.7. In 2021, the borough also had the 4th highest teenage (under 18) conception rates of London Boroughs (13.8 compared to the London average of 9.5 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17). In 2021, there were 63 teenage conceptions with a 54% abortion rate among 15-17 year olds in Waltham Forest (62% across London) (Source: Office for National Statistics).

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on pregnancy and maternity? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

We have no local data regarding maternity and pregnancy. We do however know that there are 6,102 working age women in receipt of Council Tax Support which represents 68% of the working age caseload.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people who are pregnant/expecting a baby.

Households with a child aged 5 and under will be eligible to receive up to 85% support as one of our protected groups, provided they meet the remaining qualifying criteria (household composition, level of income and capital).

#### **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.

According to a <u>2020 landmark Employment Tribunal ruling</u>, people who identify as gender fluid and non-binary or transitioning are protected under this section of the Equality Act and should therefore be considered as part of your assessment.

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on transgender people? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

We do not currently hold information at a caseload level on gender reassignment for those individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone a process (or part of a process) to reassign their sex.

We do not currently hold information at a caseload level on gender reassignment for those individuals in receipt of Council Tax Support.

#### 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 UK 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 the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people in a marriage or civil partnership? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

We know from our existing caseload that were 13 claims in payment from same sex couples. It is however not been possible to determine precisely how many of these couples are married or in a civil partnership.

Current data held suggests that same sex couples are very much underrepresented in benefit claims compared to heterosexual couples.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposed change will have on people in a marriage or civil partnership.

To mitigate against the loss of support there will be £750,000.00 in Discretionary Council Tax Support Payments available to help households most adversely impacted.

#### **Care Leavers**

Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on people who are Care Leavers? If so, explain why this group may be affected and what mitigating action will be taken.

The proposed changes will have no impact on care leavers. Care Leavers under 25 will continue to be eligible for discretionary council tax hardship support payments to cover their full council tax up until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Highlight any positive benefits the proposal will have on people who are Care Leavers.

The proposed changes will have no impact on care leavers. Care Leavers under 25 will continue to be eligible for discretionary council tax hardship support payments to cover their full council tax up until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### Other structurally disadvantaged groups

# Will the proposed change to service/policy have a differential impact [negative] on other structurally disadvantaged groups?

Groups of households which include non-dependant adults are impacted by continuation of the existing scheme. All non-dependant adults residing with a working aged household are expected to contribute towards Council Tax, so the level of support for those households will decrease.

£8 per week for those out of work and £20 per work for those that are working.

#### Highlight any positive benefits the proposal will have on groups experiencing structural disadvantage.

The only income taken into consideration when calculating which level of support a household will be entitled to is self-employed earnings and earned income. All other income will be disregarded, so those in receipt of benefits such as universal credit and employment support allowance will see this income disregarded and receive the maximum level of support available to them under the scheme (57% or 85%) as a result.

# **Section 4: Monitoring and reviewing**

The effects of the proposal have been monitored and reviewed by acquiring modelled schemes from Policy in Practice. Reports have been provided detailing the groups that will be most adversely impacted. To reduce the potential impact on affected residents if the proposals are adopted, the findings from the consultation will be used to inform how discretionary hardship funds are used to target those in need, as well as how we help residents through advice and guidance to maximise their income.

The Head of Benefits – Eamonn Hennessy, will be responsible for assessing the effects and mitigating the impact.

#### **Section 5: Conclusion**

#### Set out your conclusions from the analysis of the proposal or policy.

This analysis has identified that women, will be most likely to be adversely impacted by continuation of the Council Tax Support Scheme because they account for the largest proportion of any group in receipt of Council Tax Support.

This means that those in receipt of support from April 2026 would continue to be required to pay at least 15% of their eligible Council Tax themselves, which is the same as the current requirement.

The Council will also keep this Equality Impact Analysis under review as part of its compliance with its' Public Sector Equality Duty. Up to £750,000 will continue to be made available under the continuation of a Discretionary Council Tax Hardship Fund to offer extra support to the most vulnerable residents. This fund is administered alongside other discretionary funds such as Discretionary Housing Payment which provides additional support with rent and other housing costs to help maintain or secure tenancies and the Council's Local Welfare Allowance scheme which provides much needed support for families in crisis to obtain food, essential furniture and white goods as well as meeting fuel costs.

The authority will continue to conduct more detailed analysis of households' ability to meet these liabilities based on the administrative data the Council has access to using platforms and methodologies for reliable analysis. We will monitor equality data to identify any disproportionate impact on affected groups.

Th	ne outcome following analysis of the impact indicates the impact to be outcome 3.
0	utcome of Equality Impact Assessment check one that applies
•	Outcome 1: No major change required when the assessment has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken. ⊠
•	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Adjustments to remove barriers identified by the assessment or to better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments would remove the barriers identified? $\Box$
•	Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified some potential for adverse impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality. In this case, the justification should be included in the assessment and should be in line with the duty to have 'due regard'. For the most important relevant policies, compelling reasons will be needed. You should consider whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact.
٠	<b>Outcome 4:</b> Stop and rethink when an assessment shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. $\Box$
S	ection 6: Signatures
Si	gned off by Corporate Director for the proposal or policy/project:
	ame: Click here to enter text.
	ate: Click here to enter text.

# **Section 7: Version control**

Status	Version	Author	Date	Changes made
Draft	1.1	Eamonn Hennessy	29-09-2025	
Second Draft	1.2			
Final	1.3			