

Equality Impact Assessment

Title of report or proposal:
Bolton Town Centre Strategy

Department:	Place
Section:	Economic Development and Regeneration
Date:	September 2017

Public sector bodies need to be able to evidence that they have given due regard to the impact and potential impact on all people with 'protected characteristics' in shaping policy, in delivering services, and in relation to their own employees.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the council has a general duty to have **due regard** to the need to:

1. **eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
2. **advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
3. **foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

By completing the following questions the three parts of the equality duty will be consciously considered as part of the decision-making process.

Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment must also be included in the main body of the report.

1. Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes.

Approve proposals for the further implementation of a strategy and masterplan for Bolton town centre contained within this report including the use of resources. This report refreshes the strategy and masterplan framework for Bolton town centre and sets the framework for the Council's £100million investment to support its delivery.

The purpose of the report is to propose that the £100m fund is targeted in five key intervention areas within the town centre which will have the greatest impact, together with cross-cutting interventions such as infrastructure investment that will benefit the town centre as a whole.

The report outlines specific delivery interventions including; strategic site assembly; making sites 'development ready'; the delivery of some key developments; public realm and infrastructure. A commercial team will be procured to support delivery and secure the necessary private sector investment.

Bolton town centre must be competitive if it is to be vibrant, diverse and successful and to achieve this, it is considered vital that the Council assists in leading, facilitating and enabling the conditions for economic growth through direct intervention in economic development and regeneration in partnership with business and communities.

2. Is this a new policy / function / service or review of existing one?

Review of an existing one.

3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?

Residents of Bolton
Visitors of Bolton
Students
Businesses
Investors
Executive Members
Council staff

In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?

- 4.** The strategy is to develop and invest in Bolton Town Centre to enrich all stakeholders who live, work or visit the town centre. £100m fund is proposed to be targeted in five key intervention areas within the town centre which will have the greatest impact, together with cross-cutting interventions such as infrastructure investment that will benefit the town centre as a whole.

5. What, if any, cumulative impact could the proposal have?

This is an impact that appears when you consider services or activities together. A change or activity in one area may create an impact somewhere else.

This strategy focuses on Bolton Council developing the town centre to become vibrant, diverse and successful.

The strategy set out in the report evolved during the economic downturn and looks to improve and not be at a detriment to cohesion, inclusion and diversity across the town centre. Further investment is necessary to transform the town centre as a result of the economic downturn and focuses on the following 6 main areas:

- Retail
- Leisure, culture and tourism
- Residential
- Office and business
- Education
- Travel and digital infrastructure

The areas above aim to revive the town centre to benefit all stakeholders and investing in the future of Bolton town centre.

6. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

Consider:

- How to avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- How to **advance equality of opportunity**. This means considering the need to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with protected characteristics due to having that characteristic.
 - Take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics that are different from people who do not have that characteristic
 - Encourage protected groups to participate in public life and in any other activity where participation is disproportionately low
- How to **foster good relations**. This means considering the need to:
 - Tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding between people who share a protected characteristic and others.

	Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact? Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason? Please state why	Please detail what actions you will take to remedy any identified adverse impact i.e. actions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations
Race (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality, and caste, and includes refugees and migrants; and gypsies and travellers)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Religion or belief (this includes any religion with a clear structure and belief system. Belief means any religious or philosophical belief. The Act also covers lack of	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.

religion or belief)			
Disability (a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Sex / Gender	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Gender reassignment / Gender identity (a person who's deeply felt and individual experience of gender may not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth, they may or may not propose to, start or complete a process to change their gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Age (people of all ages)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Sexual orientation - people who are lesbian, gay and bisexual.	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.

Marriage and civil partnership (Only in relation to due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Caring status (including pregnancy & maternity)	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Socio-economic	Please see other comments.	N/A	Please see other comments.
Other comments or issues.	<p>The strategy is to develop and invest in Bolton Town Centre to enrich all stakeholders who live, work or visit the town centre. £100m fund is proposed to be targeted in five key intervention areas within the town centre which will have the greatest impact, together with cross-cutting interventions such as infrastructure investment that will benefit the town centre as a whole.</p> <p>Subject to approval of this report and delegation of the appropriate authorities, delivery will take place in a phased manner over a number of years. An action plan with appropriate priorities, output measures and indicators would be developed enabling annual monitoring and review reports overseen by the Director of Place and Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration. Consideration to equality will be taken into account through such process as the Council's procurement policy, planning policies, etc. as and when developments transpire.</p>		
Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation or other engagement, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys, stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.			

This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive impact for one or more groups justified on the grounds of promoting equality - proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and rethink	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Officer

Name: Phil Lamb

Date: 27/07/17

Departmental Equalities Lead Officer

Name: _____

Date: _____