

Test Valley Borough Council

Equality Impact Assessments

INITIAL SCREENING

Initial screening needs to take place for all new and revised strategies, policies, functions, projects, plans or procedures. This stage, which must be completed at the earliest opportunity, will determine whether or not it is necessary to carry out a full EQIA for this area of activity.

1. Strategy / policy / function / project / plan / procedure

Car Park Strategy and Management 2012 - 2017

2. Officer(s) completing the screening

David Wilson, Engineering & Transport Manager

3. Is the strategy / policy / function / project / plan / procedure:

Existing

An existing strategy, policy, function, project, plan or procedure which hasn't yet been subject to an assessment

Changing / being updated

An existing strategy, policy, function, project, plan or procedure which has been changed or updated

New / proposed

A new strategy, policy, function, project, plan or procedure

x

4. What are the main aims and objectives of the strategy / policy / function / project / plan / procedure?

The main aim of the Strategy is to document parking service objectives, strategic framework for provision and use of parking space both on and off street and the proposed approach to parking tariffs.

5. Who will be affected by / are the main beneficiaries of the strategy / policy / function / project / plan / procedure?

Anyone parking in Andover and Romsey public car parks or on-street. Residents of both towns will also be affected if they live within walking distance of the town centre as their street may form part of a residents permit parking zone.

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6. a) What are the potential negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations on the following groups and/or communities?
- b) What are the potential positive / helpful impacts or effects on the following groups or communities?
(explain any measures which are in place to mitigate potential discrimination)

Age

e.g. under 16, 16-25 yrs, 25-65 yrs, and 65+

You should consider the potential impact on a range of age groups, bearing in mind that young people are just as likely to be discriminated against as older people. At present (Jan 2008) the Regulations regarding age extend only to the provision of employment, training and education.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

There are no direct potential negative impacts and it is therefore felt a full EQIA is not required.

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

The main impact of the changes to the way parking is managed is positive and will mostly benefit those who have access to a car. It will not affect people who do not have access to a car (either as driver or passenger) .

Gender

e.g. man (inc. boys), women (inc. girls, transgendered people and transsexual people)

The Gender Equality Duty promotes equality between men and women and seeks to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment. The legislation applies equally to discrimination against women and discrimination against men.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

None

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

None

Disability

e.g. people with a disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

The Disability Equality Duty promotes equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people; seeks to eliminate unlawful discriminations; seeks to eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disability; promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; encourage participation by disabled people in public life; and, take steps to meet disabled people's needs, even if this requires more favourable treatment.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

Paragraphs 5.31 to 5.36 set out proposed approach to provision of parking for blue badge holders.

It is important that the spaces closest to facilities are available for those who most need them ie blue badge holders. The premium blue badge spaces are limited to a maximum stay period of 3 hours in short term car parks due to higher demand because of their close proximity to

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services. The strategy proposes limiting other premium spaces to even shorter periods such as one or two hours to increase turnover so that it is easy to access the town centre for specific short visits ie to the bank, shop or chemist. Blue Badge Holders who want to park for longer periods use other accessible spaces. This is seen as a positive measure and will be done in consultation with disabled lobby groups. However some may view it as being too restrictive. For all-day parking for blue badge holders, the spaces in medium and long stay car parks do not have a time limit.

The number of wider bays for the disabled in car parks will continue to be increased in line with national guidance. In communal resident's car parks on public highway, typically 5% of spaces would be allocated for blue badge holders where there is demand from disabled residents. The strategy proposes setting an upper limit of a maximum of 25% of the space available where there is sufficient justification. In all cases, disabled bays are available for use by any badge holder and are not for the exclusive use of one person.

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

One of the objectives of the Strategy is to provide a high standard of customer care and provide well maintained car parks that are easy for customers to use with particular regard to disabled customers. It is proposed that parking space in both town centres will be made available for blue badge holders at no charge at all times and that the Council will continue to make provision for dedicated spaces to serve Shopmobility in Andover.

Racial Group

e.g. Asian or Asian British people, Black or Black British people, Chinese people or other ethnic group, people of mixed race, White British people or people from other White backgrounds

The Race Equality Duty seeks to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; to promote equality of opportunity; and to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups. The categories in this section are taken from the 2001 Census. You should also consider the needs of specific communities e.g. Polish or Portuguese people.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

None

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

None

Religion / philosophical belief

e.g. Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim/Islam, Sikh, Buddhist, Humanist, other religions, people of no religion

The groupings in this section are the most common found in the UK. You should be aware that belief extends to any organised philosophical belief (e.g. Humanists), but not to political or other strongly held beliefs.

At present (Jan 2008) the Regulations regarding religion/belief extend only to the provision of employment, training and education.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

None

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b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

All groups have equal access to the scheme.

Sexual orientation

e.g. gay men, lesbians, bi-sexual, heterosexuals

Since 2007, the Regulations regarding sexual orientation apply to the provision of goods and services, as well as to employment, training and education.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

None

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

All groups have equal access to the same scheme.

Equal Opportunities / community cohesion

Community cohesion is about how people, and communities, from different backgrounds and with different values can live together better and prosper.

This should be considered and completed where the strategy, policy, function, project, plan or procedure has a clear impact on promoting equal opportunities and community cohesion.

a) negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations

None

b) positive / helpful impacts or effects

The "residents parking permit" schemes are designed to assist Andover and Romsey residents without sufficient parking within the curtilage of their house. The permit eligibility favours those without alternative parking space and the rate charged for parking permits is low as it is an administration charge for running the scheme.

If you have identified any potential negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations, then it is necessary to go ahead with an equality impact assessment and you should complete the rest of the form as fully as possible.

If you have not identified any potential negative / adverse / unhelpful impacts, effects or limitations, or if all potential impacts or effects are positive, then you do not need to complete a full EQIA.

This judgement and the responses to the above questions should be referred to the Critical Friends Group (contact Catherine Hegerty on ext. 8123). The screening will then be agreed, or otherwise, by the CFG and signed off by the Equalities Board.