

# equality impact assessment

## stage 1 quick check

### questionnaire



If you are planning on making a change to an existing service or policy, or launching something new, fill out this quick questionnaire to find out if you need to complete a full equality impact assessment. You can also use this form to check your current services or policies.

To find out more about the legal background to equality impact assessments, or for advice on which of your current services should be assessed, read our equality impact assessment help notes.

### Section 1: About you and your service area

Your name:	Lezley Hogg
Your service area:	Public Conveniences
Your director/line manager:	Operational Services
Your cabinet member:	CLlr Flowith

### Section 2: About your plans

Name of service/policy you are assessing:	Introduction of charging for Public Conveniences
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Is it? (please delete as appropriate)

- A change to an existing policy/service

Who are the main users of your service/policy? (please delete any that are not appropriate)

- Mixture of residents and visitors

Please briefly describe why you are creating a new service/changing an existing service or reviewing current policy/service (where appropriate, include sources of evidence such as customer feedback):

Over the past 10 years England has seen a large number of its public toilets shut down due to budget constraints, problems with anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Districts across the country have struggled to come up with the funds required to provide a service that is not statutory.

The national decline in provision has resulted in extensive campaigning from organisations such as the British Toilet Association, Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Changing Places to raise awareness of the impact lack of public conveniences has on the public.

The provision of public conveniences in Lichfield District have declined since 2003 when sites were closed due to age and vandalism the intention behind charging is to decrease acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, whilst at the same time generating a revenue that can be re-invested for future maintenance and upkeep.

As the provision of public conveniences is not a statutory requirement there are no recognised performance standards to measure good provision.

1 For help or guidance contact Debbie Morgan, Equalities Officer, on 01543 308145 or email [debbie.morgan@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.morgan@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

The aim of the public convenience strategy for Lichfield is to provide clean, safe and quality facilities within easy reach of the busy town centre.

By implementing innovative ways of toilet provision this level can be reached in Lichfield with limited financial implications on the Councils budget the intention is to introduce a 20p charge for the use of public conveniences at all sites.

## Section 3: Will your plans impact on any particular groups?

**3a:** ☒ Please fill in all boxes that apply in the table below. If any boxes don't apply, please leave blank.

**Impact will be on all users**

**Hints & tips** Think about who will benefit from or be affected by your plans/policy. Will any particular group be negatively affected, or not able to use the service? For further guidance please see Section 3 of the help notes.

Impact of plans	Will your plans have a positive impact on this group? If so please explain why?	Will your plans have a negative impact? If so please explain why? ☒ <b>If there is a negative impact on any group(s), please complete section 4 for each group.</b>
<b>Groups of users</b>		
<b>Age ranges (indicate range/ranges)</b>		Introduction of a charge for public toilet service may have a negative impact on low income persons who are more likely to be in this group
<b>Disability (physical, sensory or learning)</b>		Introduction of a charge for public toilet service may have a negative impact on low income persons who are more likely to be in this group. However users of the facilities requiring access to disabled facilities would have a RADAR key for which there is a deposit.
<b>Gender/sex</b>		
<b>Transgender/gender reassignment</b>		
<b>Race (includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality)</b>		
<b>Gypsies and travellers</b>		
<b>Refugees / asylum seekers</b>		Introduction of a charge for public toilet service may have a negative impact on low income persons who are more likely to be in this group
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		
<b>Religion or belief (includes lack of belief)</b>		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>		
<b>Carers or the people cared for (dependants)</b>		Introduction of a charge for public toilet service may have a negative impact on low income persons who are more likely to be in this group
<b>Other (please specify)</b>		

### 3b: Further details

Please use this space to provide further details if necessary

## Section 4: Can you justify and evidence, or lessen any impact?

**4a:** ☒ If you have identified a negative impact(s) on any group(s) please complete the below table for each affected each group. If any boxes don't apply, please leave blank. If you didn't identify any negative impact(s) on the previous page, skip to section 6.

**Hints & tips** Is there something you can do to reduce or alter any negative impact you have identified? *For example when we changed waste and recycling collections to kerbside collections, we offered disabled/less able people assisted collections.* Please list all the evidence you have gathered to support your decision(s) – this could include customer feedback, statistics, comparable policies, consultation results. If you don't have any evidence, please carry out appropriate studies and research to gather the evidence you need to support your decision(s). If you have no/insufficient evidence or cannot gather any, you will need to complete a full EIA. For further guidance, see Section 4 of the help notes.

Actions you need to take	We will make the following change(s) to the service/policy to reduce the negative impact. Explain the change(s) and the evidence you have to support your decision? ☒ Use section 4b below if you want to give more details.	We won't make changes as we can justify our decision and there are sound reasons behind our decision. Justify why and detail the evidence you have gathered to support your decision. ☒ Use section 4c below if you want to give more details.	There is a negative impact, and we cannot justify it and/or have no, or insufficient, evidence to support our decision.  ☒ You will need complete a full equality impact assessment. See the help notes for more details.
Groups of users			
Age ranges (indicate range/ranges)	We will keep the charges in line with comparable neighbour services who have not experienced a fall in usage.		
Disability (physical, sensory or learning)	Users of the facilities requiring access to disabled facilities would have a RADAR key for which there is a deposit. There is no change to this requirement.		
Gender / sex			
Transgender / gender reassignment			
Race (includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality)			
Gypsies and travellers			
Refugees / asylum seekers	We will keep the charges in line with comparable neighbour services who have not experienced a fall in usage.		
Sexual orientation			
Religion or belief (includes lack of belief)			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Carers or the people cared for (dependants)	We will keep the charges in line with comparable neighbour services who		

	have not experienced a fall in usage.		
<b>Other (please specify)</b>			

#### 4b: Further details on changes

Please use the space below to give more details on the changes you will make, if necessary:

#### 4c: Further details on justification

Please use the space below to give more details on the justification/evidence you have gathered, if necessary:

The ability for a charge to be applied for the use would allow existing conveniences to operate at lower costs than currently budgeted.

One of the main problems with traditional public conveniences is the level of antisocial behaviour, vandalism and crime it attracts. It is anticipated that charging for the use of the facilities will resolve many of these problems as the main offenders will not be willing to pay to enter. Charging for the use of the facilities might not benefit the users financially, however only a small fee of 20p is likely to be introduced. The users would also benefit from quality facilities with less vandalism etc.

### Section 5: Your action plan

**Help notes** If, as a result of this assessment, you are going to adapt your plans or policy, please include details below. Please include a quick action plan and key dates that will show how you will review your decisions and when. Please include responsibility and expected outcomes. For full guidance on how to complete this section, please refer to the help notes.

### Section 6: Record your actions (delete as appropriate)

I have sent this to the equality officer for publication on the intranet and on <a href="http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk">www.lichfielddc.gov.uk</a>	No	Yes
Date completed: 12/06/2013		