

Equality Analysis Form / EqIA

By completing this form you will provide evidence of how your service is meeting Stroud District Council's General Equality duty:

The Equality Act 2010 states that:

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have **due regard** to the need to –*

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The protected characteristics are listed in Question 9

Stroud District Equality data can be found at:

<https://inform.glos.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/>

Please see Appendix 1 for a good example of a completed EIA.

Guidance available on the HUB

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s): Hannah Emery	Telephone:
Head of Corporate Policy and Governance	E-Mail: hannah.emery@stroud.gov.uk
Service: Corporate Policy and Governance	Date of Assessment: 23/12/2024

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Council Plan 2024-2029

Is this new or an existing one?

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The Council Plan is a strategic plan which outlines what Stroud District Council plans to deliver to the community over the next four years. It sets out the activity to be undertaken by the authority and identifies achievable actions which will create positive outcomes for individuals and communities.

4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)

5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

The whole population of the district will be affected. The Council Plan is an overarching document which is designed to create positive impacts for people who live, work and visit the district. It should not have an adverse impact on any groups or individuals as its purpose is to make the Council's practices and services more effective, fair and accessible for all.

The Plan aims to create inclusive communities and foster good community relations. Key initiatives are involving and engaging communities and supporting them to be involved in decision making.

6. What outcomes are expected?

The Council Plan includes a range of initiatives and different projects which are designed to provide positive outcomes for the wider community.

The ambitions of the Plan are aimed at creating positive outcomes for advancing opportunity for disadvantaged groups/communities and fostering good relations with people who do not share a protected characteristic.

Further consultation and individual Equality Impact Assessments for the range of initiatives will take place as part of the ongoing development and completion of the specific actions and projects contained within the plan.

7. What evidence has been used for this assessment?: (eg Research, previous consultations, Inform (MAIDEN); Google assessments carried out by other Authorities)

- Responses to the public consultation held between October and December 2024 (See Appendix C of the Council Plan report).
- National statistics, mostly using the Office of National Statistics Census (2021) to pull out key statistics that related to the priorities, aims and objectives of the Council Plan. These included:
 - Population (121,100)
 - Place of birth
 - Population density
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Race and Ethnicity
 - Religion
 - Number of disabled people
 - UK armed forces veteran indicator
 - Economic activity status
 - Highest level of qualification
 - Method of travelling to the workplace
 - Number of households (52,400)
 - Household deprivation
- Local statistics and research were used as additional evidence for particular areas such as housing, local businesses and the local community. This was undertaken with support from service areas across the Council and included:
 - Number of businesses (4,344 registered with the council)
 - Number of community hubs (14)
 - Number of council properties (4,955)
 - Number of shared ownership properties (43)

- Number of B-Corp businesses in the Stroud district (14)

Understanding the demographics of the Stroud district has been essential to the development of the Council Plan. Research has begun to identify some of the specific needs of the district and therefore what the Council Plan should seek to address, in particular in regard to support for those with protected characteristics.

8. Has any consultation been carried out? See list of possible consultees

Significant consultation has been undertaken in the development of the Council Plan, including through workshops with Councillors and officers, Town and Parish Councils, Stroud District Youth Council, and the Local Strategic Partnership for the district.

A public consultation was held between the end of October and beginning of December 2024, the consultation included an online and paper survey, and the feedback received can be found appended to the Council Plan report.

9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a **negative or positive way**?

(Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty; Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty; Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure)

Protected Group	Type of impact, reason and any evidence (from Q7 & 8)
Age	
Disability	
Gender Re-assignment	Whilst the Council Plan 2025-2029 aims to provide a positive impact for all individuals living, working and visiting the district, individual Equality Impact Assessments will be conducted as part of the ongoing development and implementation of specific projects and initiatives which make up the Council Plan. This is to ensure the council's statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity and good relations is fully considered.
Pregnancy & Maternity	
Race	Without full consideration of all of the actions and initiatives this EIA will provide for a neutral impact on all protected groups, although as stated above, it is anticipated that all initiatives will have a positive impact.
Religion – Belief	
Sex	
Sexual Orientation	
Marriage & Civil Partnerships (part (a) of duty only)	
Rural considerations: ie Access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband;	

10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 9, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?

Action(s):	Lead officer	Resource	Timescale

Declaration

I/We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function * (delete those which do not apply) and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment

Completed by: Hannah Emery	Date: 23/12/2024
Role: Head of Corporate Policy and Governance	
Countersigned by Head of Service/Director: 	

Date for Review: Please forward an electronic copy to policy@stroud.gov.uk