



Eastleigh House  
Upper Market Street  
Eastleigh SO50 9YN

15 September 2020

**EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 15 September 2020**

**SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS ENCLOSED**

Item 8. Eastleigh Town Centre Covid Recovery Plan Update (Pages 3 - 6)

**TO:** Councillors Bicknell, Campbell, Bourne, Clarke, Doguie, Irish, Mann and Tyson-Payne

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## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

<p><b>Title of EqIA:</b></p>	<p>EASTLEIGH TOWN CENTRE COVID- 19 RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE</p>
<p><b>Brief description of the Proposal:</b></p>	<p>Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a severe impact on people's lives and health, and the economic impact of COVID-19 on our towns and local centres is severe. As restrictions are lifted, we will be looking to support our town centre businesses and ensure a safe environment for them to begin trading. The Council's aspiration is to support the return of town centre footfall to its pre-COVID-19 levels.</p> <p>The government is urging Local Authorities to make significant changes to their road layouts to ensure social distancing can be achieved and to establish a safe trading environment for businesses and customers. Local Authorities are advised to consider measures that can influence the utilisation of pedestrian space, the movement of people, queuing requirements and traffic management and which give more space to cyclists and pedestrians as part of the return to a new and better 'normal'.</p> <p>Eastleigh Town Centre is one of the main attractors in the Borough and has therefore been selected as a priority. With more non-essential retail due to open from the 15th June and restrictions to the number of people allowed in a shop at any one time. The demand for space for customers to queue on pavements will increase and in time businesses, particularly the food service industry, may want more space to operate outside.</p> <p>By closing Market Street and High Street to vehicle traffic, the road space currently dominated by parked or idling cars and slow-moving traffic, resulting in air pollution and limiting pedestrian movement, can be re-designated to support the required social distancing measures using temporary barriers, coning or lining.</p> <p>The primary focus of these proposals is to ensure that everyone who uses our town centre has safe space to access the high street, can socially distance and to provide an inviting shopping experience. Doing so will encourage people to return, which will provide on-going support and continued custom to local businesses in this most challenging of times.</p> <p>However it is recognised that a decision to close these roads will impact on specific groups of people who use our town centre including the elderly, those with mobility problems and pregnant women. This is due to the inability to park their vehicles close to the shop(s) they wish to visit.</p>

**Assessment:**

For all of categories below please consider:

1. Does this proposal eliminate unlawful discrimination?
2. Does this proposal advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?
3. Does this proposal foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?

**Statutory Considerations: Please highlight what impact could there be on people with protected characteristics.**

**Age:**

Everyone is at risk of infection from COVID19, however older people in England are more likely to develop serious ill health and are more likely to have complex co-morbidities which place them at greater risk of complications if they contract COVID-19 so our ability to respond well to COVID19 will have a large impact on older people.

Children and older people are both particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution. In early life exposure can affect lung function and growth; for older people it can increase the risk of heart problems and stroke.

Older people may be unable to park their vehicles directly outside the shop(s) they wish to visit or may need to walk further, potentially carrying shopping

**Disability:**

People with existing health conditions are particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution. Exposure to poor air quality can exacerbate symptoms of asthma and cardiovascular disease. It also increases the risk of heart problems and stroke for those with existing cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

COVID19 has the potential for excess deaths due to stopping routine care for disabled people with long term conditions.

The higher numbers of deaths from COVID-19 of people living in deprived areas of England will have a disproportionate impact on disabled people who are more likely to live in these areas

People with some long-term conditions (which would be classed as a disability under the Equality Act 2010) are more likely to develop serious ill health if they contract COVID-19, so our ability to respond well to COVID-19 will have a large impact on disabled people

Social distancing may lead to an increase in mental health issues and, for example, an increase in young people going to A&E with mental health concerns and an increase in suicides

People with disabilities may be unable to park their vehicles directly outside the shops they wish to visit or may need to walk further, potentially carrying shopping. However those who use

	mobility scooters are still able to access all areas of the town centre.
<b>Gender:</b>	NONE
<b>Gender reassignment:</b>	NONE
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b>	<p>Pregnant women are included in the list of 'high risk' groups.</p> <p>Social distancing for pregnant women might have an impact on their ability to manage their own healthcare, including mental health</p> <p>Exposure to poor air quality can affect a foetus within the first few weeks, with evidence emerging for resulting low birth weights and premature birth. Therefore pregnant women are also particularly susceptible to air pollution.</p> <p>Pregnant women may be unable to park their vehicles directly outside the shops they wish to visit or may need to walk further, potentially carrying shopping.</p>
<b>Race:</b>	<p>Disproportionate numbers of BME people are dying of COVID-19 and also there are also disproportionate numbers of BME people in intensive care with severe effects of COVID-19. Reasons for this are currently unknown. BME people may be more likely to have health conditions associated with a worse outcome from COVID19 (such as diabetes) or be in occupations where social distancing is harder to maintain. There may also be factors connected with access to healthcare.</p> <p>The higher numbers of deaths from COVID-19 of people living in deprived areas of England will have a disproportionate impact on BME people who are more likely to live in these areas</p> <p>Potential for excess deaths due to stopping preventative or routine care for long term conditions during the pandemic, some of these conditions are more prevalent in BME communities</p> <p>People who speak English as a second language may have less access to information about COVID-19 and therefore may be at a higher risk</p> <p>'Social distancing' policies of providers might have a greater impact for BME older or disabled people who rely on family for advocacy/ social contact in care settings</p> <p>Social distancing policies of providers might have a higher impact for BME older or disabled people who have experienced discrimination and this may reinforce a sense of stigma</p>
<b>Religion or belief:</b>	NONE
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>	NONE
<b>Marriage and civil</b>	NONE

<b>partnership:</b>	
<b>Non statutory considerations: Please highlight what impact could there be on people experiencing social deprivation.</b>	
<b>Social deprivation:</b>	<p>The higher numbers of deaths from COVID-19 of people living in deprived areas of England will have a disproportionate impact on disabled and BME people who are more likely to live in these areas</p> <p>Although air pollution can be harmful to everyone, people who live in more polluted areas are more affected. This tends to include low-income communities as they are more likely to live in areas with poorer air quality due to lower value properties often being located in more congested areas. They are also more likely to fit other criteria which indicate poorer health in general, making them more susceptible.</p>

<b>What engagement or consultation has been carried out?</b>	See decision report
<b>What could reduce any adverse impact on these groups?</b>	<p>A number of measures have been included in the scheme to minimise and mitigate the impact on these groups, including:</p> <p>The provision of alternative Disabled parking bays</p> <p>Pedestrianisation will reduce the risk of road traffic accidents for people who are registered blind or visually impaired.</p> <p>Improved Air Quality will assist those with respiratory illnesses to use the facilities, particularly pertinent as COPD are known to exacerbate COVID-19 complications.</p> <p>Safer Social Distancing will support people with protected characteristics such as BAME who have been identified as at higher risk of COVID-19.</p> <p>Siting additional seating in the areas affected by the closures, enabling people to rest when they need to.</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Cali Sparks</b>
<b>Manager:</b>	<b>Louise O'Driscoll</b>
<b>Corporate Director:</b>	<b>Andy Trayer</b>
<b>Date completed:</b>	<b>07 September 2020</b>