

## Equality Impact Assessment for Polling Review 2019

Eastleigh Borough Council is committed to promoting equality and participation in all our activities, whether it is related to the work we do with external stakeholders and the community or related to our responsibilities as an employer.

As a public authority we are also required to have due regard for the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and promote good relations when making decisions and developing policies. To do this it is necessary to understand the potential impacts of the range of internal and external activities on different groups of people.

The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to help us ensure that:

- we understand the potential effects of the review by assessing the impacts on different groups both external and internal
- any adverse impacts are identified and actions identified to remove or mitigate them
- decisions are transparent and based on evidence with clear reasoning.

The questions below are a way of evaluating the Polling Review against the needs of different groups covered by the Equality Act that have a protected characteristics: disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), and age.

<b>Service Area</b>	Electoral Services
<b>Date of assessment</b>	August 2019
<b>Name of strategy/policy/function/service to be assessed</b>	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
<b>Is this a new or existing strategy/policy/function/service</b>	Existing
<b>Name of manager responsible for strategy/policy/function/service</b>	Richard Ward
<b>Name of people conducting the assessment</b>	Sam Jones
<b>Description of strategy/policy/function/service</b>	
Describe the aims: objectives and purpose of the strategy/policy/function/service	The aim of the review is to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable</li><li>• polling places are accessible to all electors including those who are disabled</li><li>• remove barriers to voting through improved access to polling stations and promotion of postal voting</li></ul>
<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
Are there any existing equality objectives of the strategy/policy or function/service?	Inclusive, fair and well run election process and to increase the number of people voting in local elections
Who is intended to benefit from the strategy/policy/function/service and in what way?	All eligible residents of Eastleigh who are registered to vote in the Borough
What are the intended outcomes of this strategy/policy/function/service?	Fair, open and accessible election and high quality customer service

<p>Are there any potential positive or negative impacts on any of the protected characteristic groups listed below?</p> <p>Disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy &amp; maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), age</p>	<p>None identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All polling stations have disabled access with ramps provided where required</li> <li>• There are postal/proxy provision available as an alternative method</li> <li>• Large print ballot papers are available in the polling station along with devices for the partially sighted</li> <li>• Comply with closely prescribed legal guidance and monitor complaints received during an election</li> <li>• Schools will only be used as polling stations where no other suitable venue exists in accordance with DfE and Electoral Commission guidelines</li> </ul>
<p>What involvement and consultation has been done in relation this policy? (e.g. with relevant groups and stakeholders)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication and publicity to raise awareness through social media i.e. council website, borough news, twitter, facebook, eNews</li> <li>- Contacted local disability groups and community groups</li> <li>- Council offices – posters on display</li> <li>- Contacted interested parties such as MPs, councillors, Parish Councils, local political parties</li> <li>- Adjoining authority - Acting Returning Officer</li> </ul>
<p>What is the final decision and action?</p>	<p>There are no detrimental impacts on any of the groups but we will continue to strive to promote accessibility at polling stations for all the community</p>