

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Title of EqIA:	EASTLEIGH TOWN CENTRE COVID- 19 RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE
Brief description of the Proposal:	<p>In response to government advice Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) temporarily closed roads within Eastleigh Town Centre on 15 June 2020 to create a safe trading environment and support social distancing.</p> <p>The scheme promotes the safety of all who use our town and local centres, active travel to the town centre and encourages shoppers to return and use the borough's businesses through the provision of a safe and welcoming environment.</p> <p>Going into 2021, as the pandemic continues there is still a significant risk to public health posed by COVID-19. Social distancing remains an essential a key part of the UK's strategy in tackling COVID-19 and therefore, it is proposed to extend the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order by a further 6 months, until the 15 December 2021.</p> <p>The proposed extension to the closure will provide additional opportunity for changes to the public realm to be delivered in partnership with Hampshire County Council and for additional activities to be planned and delivered when lockdown restrictions are eased to promote Eastleigh town centre and encourage people to shop local.</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>

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

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Disability:	<p>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.</p> <p>COVID19 has the potential for excess deaths due to stopping routine care for disabled people with long term conditions.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>
Gender:	NONE
Gender reassignment:	NONE
Pregnancy and Maternity:	<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>
Race:	<p>Disproportionate numbers of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people are dying of COVID-19 and also there are also disproportionate numbers of BAME people in intensive care with severe effects of COVID-19. Reasons for this are currently unknown. BAME 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 BAME 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 BAME 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 BAME 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 BAME older or disabled people who have experienced discrimination and this may reinforce a sense of stigma</p>
Religion or belief:	NONE
Sexual Orientation:	NONE
Marriage and civil partnership:	NONE
Non statutory considerations: Please highlight what impact could there be on people experiencing social deprivation.	
Social deprivation:	<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 BAME 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>

What engagement or consultation has been carried out?	See decision report
	<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>What could reduce any adverse impact on these groups?</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>Since the introduction of the scheme EBC has made a number of changes to the closure and associated parking arrangements to address issues relating to access including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number and distribution of disabled bays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional dedicated spaces in the Hanns Way Car Park; ▪ Repurposed a taxi rank on Mitchell Road to provide a disabled parking bay for up to 4 vehicles; ▪ The introduction of a 3hr time limit on the Leigh Road disabled parking bay to increase turnover; and ▪ Improved layout of disabled parking bays in the Wells Road Car Park • A new bus stop provided for the Community Transport Service on Wells Place at the junction with Hanns Way.
<p>Lead Officer:</p>	<p>Cali Sparks</p>
<p>Manager:</p>	<p>Louise O'Driscoll</p>
<p>Corporate Director:</p>	<p>Andy Trayer</p>
<p>Date completed:</p>	<p>27 January 2021</p>