

**Initial equality impact assessment screening form**

This form is an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to an activity, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

<b>Directorate:</b>	People
<b>Service Area:</b>	Contracts, Commissioning and Brokerage
<b>Activity being screened:</b>	Updates to the current Disabled Facilities Grant Regulatory Reform Order Policies
<b>Officer(s) carrying out the screening:</b>	Lisa Holdsworth, Elaine Taylor, Sukhdev Dosanjh, Christine Thompson, Helen Watson, Geraldine Earley
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Update the existing DFG and Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) Policies
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	To increase flexibility and maximise the use of the Disabled Facilities Grant
<b>Does the activity involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details	There is an annual allocation of dedicated funding for Disabled Facilities Grants included within the Better Care Fund. Since 2017 this annual allocation of funding has increased, and a review of the existing DFG and Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) Policies is required to ensure that the use of the grant is maximised.

**Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or any other socially excluded groups?**

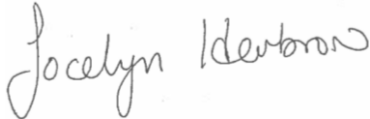
**As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:**

- **To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?**
- **Does the activity relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?**
- **Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the activity relates to?**

**If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate.**

<b>Protected characteristic</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know/ Info not available</b>
Age		x	
Disability		x	
Sex (gender)		x	

Race		x	
Sexual Orientation		x	
Religion or belief		x	
Gender reassignment		x	
Pregnancy or maternity		x	
Marriage or civil partnership		x	
<b>Other</b>			
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		x	
Low Income		x	
Rural Location		x	
<b>Does the activity relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.</b>	The updated policies will cover all areas of the Borough equally irrespective of known inequalities etc.		
<b>Will the activity have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</b>	The activity will not have a significant effect on how other organisations operate. However, there is the potential that by broadening the Council's ability to provide individuals with adaptations to their homes, this may reduce or delay the needs for services commissioned from Adult Social Care.		
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	x	Continue to full EIA:
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	<p>A full EIA is not required as the suggested amendments to the existing DFG and RRO Policies will not have any adverse effects on the above protected characteristics.</p> <p>The suggested updates seek to broaden access to support to eligible individuals, including: widening the support that can accessed via a DFG; waiving the existing means test in some instances to enable more equitable access to the same form of provision, eg stairlifts and also increasing the timeliness in which a DFG can be processed; raising the recovery threshold iro DFG funding. These changes will have a positive impact for all recipients and promote their independence.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation process from 25.10.22 – 28.11.22 identified positive impacts from the proposals made, although it was queried what would happen if there was insufficient funding to implement all the proposals? This is not an issue at present, as historically there has been a growing cumulative underspend in the DFG budget with an average carry forward amount of £1,631,811 over the last 4 years and DFG funds can only be spent on items identified in the DFG/RRO policies. It is possible that a reduction in funding levels in the future could impact the range of support that could be offered. This will be kept under review and officers will continue to monitor</p>		

	for any potential negative impacts and, if required, will undertake a full EIA.
<b>Signed (Assistant Director)</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>2 December 2022</b>