

## Bristol City Council Equality Impact Relevance Check



This tool will identify the equalities relevance of a proposal, and establish whether a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required. Please read the guidance prior to completing this relevance check.

<b>What is the proposal?</b>	
Name of proposal	BNET Fibre Extension
Please outline the proposal.	Extend the council's BNET duct and fibre network in the North West of the city (infrastructure enabling project only)
What savings will this proposal achieve?	Savings on broadband connectivity for public buildings could be achieved in the next phase – connecting public buildings
Name of Lead Officer	Emma Howarth

<b>Could your proposal impact citizens with protected characteristics?</b> (This includes service users and the wider community)
<b>Please outline where there may be significant opportunities or positive impacts, and for whom.</b>
<p>The implementation of this digital infrastructure enabling scheme should ultimately lead to more choice and competition in broadband for citizens, organisations and businesses in later phases. In the first phase of this project, building the backhaul network, will not deliver direct benefits to citizens with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Once the enabling infrastructure is in place, the council will encourage use of the infrastructure by telecommunications providers and invest in building out their network to citizens, businesses and organisations. The replacement of old BNET chambers and chamber lids will improve the footway for all users.</p> <p>This will deliver benefits in the following phase when we come to connect public buildings and invite investment to increase competition in the consumer broadband market. After this enabling scheme is built, public services e.g. schools, libraries, health centres will be able to connect to faster and more reliable full fibre broadband.</p> <p>This will benefit all services users and will equally impact them.</p>
<b>Please outline where there may be significant negative impacts, and for whom.</b>
<p>The scheme will restore 18.4km of existing underground infrastructure. This should have limited, localised and short term disruption (less than 3 days) to footway users as we will focus on repairs where the existing infrastructure is blocked. The vast majority of the council's underground ducts (tunnels) are in a good state and do not require repairs.</p> <p>There will also be 4.6km of new duct to be built. This will involve digging trenches in the</p>

footway and laying fibre optic cables.

All street works work will be done to national and local standards to manage disruption to footway users e.g. pedestrian ramps, corridors, alternative routes etc as required under the Bristol Street Works permit scheme in a best practice way.

(<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/4052194/Bristol+City+Council+Streetworks+Permit+Scheme+policy.pdf/d44cd956-c85e-cdbe-86fe-a3f8f5b937a6>)

Contractors are pre-approved from the council's existing framework agreements for civils and fibre work to carry out this work in line with national guidance.

There will be some disruption during this phase, however, our communications and engagement plan will ensure prior notification and explain the advantages of the project (better connectivity).

This scheme has strong low carbon credentials as it will reuse existing underground ducts for a large part of this project in order to minimise disruption.

**Could your proposal impact staff with protected characteristics?**

(i.e. reduction in posts, changes to working hours or locations, changes in pay)

Please outline where there may be significant opportunities or positive impacts, and for whom.

None / NA

Please outline where there may be negative impacts, and for whom.

None / NA

**Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?**

Does the proposal have the potential to impact on people with protected characteristics in the following ways:

- access to or participation in a service,
- levels of representation in our workforce, or
- reducing quality of life (i.e. health, education, standard of living) ?

Please indicate yes or no. If the answer is yes then a full impact assessment must be carried out. If the answer is no, please provide a justification.

No. Enabling fibre infrastructure only with no direct beneficiaries in this phase and no impact to staff.

Service Director sign-off and date:  
P Mellor  
24/09/2020

Equalities Officer sign-off and date:  
Reviewed by Equality officer 16/9/20