

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.10]



Title: Bristol City Council Pavement Licensing Policy Consultation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Growth and Regeneration – Management of Place	Lead Officer name: Shaun Taylor
Service Area: Highways	Lead Officer role: Highways Maintenance Group Manager

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use **plain English**, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

The Business and Planning Act 2020 (hereafter ‘the Act’) was introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic to enable premises to utilise outside space for hospitality whilst restrictions existed on indoor space. In relation to the placing of removable furniture on the highway the Act reduced the timescales for applications to be determined and limited the costs to businesses. Initially the Act was intended to last for one year, however this was extended and now expires on 30 September 2024, with legislation just passed by parliament to make the measures under the Act permanent upon regulations being issued by the Secretary of State.

The current policy guides the Council when determining applications made in connection with the Business and Planning Act 2020 in relation to the placing of removable furniture on the highway. The policy covers all applications for pavement licences under this Act which allows the holder to place removable furniture on part of a relevant highway adjacent to the premises to which they relate for specific purposes. The policy does not apply to non-removable furniture, parasols over 1.8m in diameter, sided or un-sided structures, or decking.

This proposal is in relation to a consultation on an amended version of the policy which expands the areas for consideration, including requirements about furniture, heaters, planters and barriers and bins.

The consultation will be for 12 weeks in line with government guidance, and will engage members of the public, expert stakeholders and equalities groups to comment on the proposals.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	

Additional comments:

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

Yes No [please select]

This proposal is in relation to a consultation on an amended version of the policy, the consultation will be for 12 weeks in line with government guidance, and will engage members of the public, expert stakeholders and equalities groups to comment on the proposals.

Any person will be able to engage with the consultation, and responses can be made by email. A copy of the draft policy can be made available in alternative formats on request.

After the consultation is complete the responses will be analysed, any amendments to the policy made, and a further EQIA drafted before the report is presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) before requesting sign off from your Director¹.

Equality and Inclusion Team Review: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	Director Sign-Off:
Date: 20/2/2024	Date:

¹ Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.