Equality Impact Assessment



This online equality impact assessment should:

An equality impact assessment should take place when considering doing something in a new way. Please submit your completed EIA as an appendix to your committee report. Please remember that this will be a public document – do not use jargon or abbreviations.

Service Health & Housing / Public Protection group

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy

Re-purposing Morecambe Bus Station as a young people hang-out area to help combat anti-social behaviour

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy: Existing □ New/Proposed ⊠

Lead Officer Nick Howard, Public Protection Group Manager

People involved with completing the EIA

Nick Howard, Public Protection Group Manager

Step 1.1: Make sure you have clear aims and objectives

Q1. What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

To reduce prevailing anti-social behaviour (ASB) by offering a dedicated hang-out area for young people which is safer and more suitable and in a lower-sensitivity location than where they might previously have chosen to gather.

Q2.

Who is intended to benefit? Who will it have a detrimental effect on and how?

It is intended to benefit (1) Young people seeking to gather for normal socialising purposes, and (2) local occupiers / communities of residential areas and business premises that have been adversely affected by young people related ASB. No people or groups have been identified that would be detrimentally affected.

Step 1.2: Collecting your information

Q3. Using existing data (if available) and thinking about each group below, does, or could, the policy, service, function, project or strategy have a negative impact on the groups below?

Group	Negative	Positive/No Impact	Unclear
Age		\boxtimes	
Disability		\boxtimes	
Faith, religion or belief		\boxtimes	
Gender including marriage, pregnancy and maternity		\boxtimes	
Gender reassignment		\boxtimes	
Race		\boxtimes	
Sexual orientation including civic partnerships		\boxtimes	
Other socially excluded groups such as carers, areas of deprivation		\boxtimes	
Rural communities		\boxtimes	

Step 1.3 – Is there a need to consult!

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Q4. Who have you consulted with? If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with? Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups of communities

1. In 2017 coordinated research into young people related anti-social behaviour was conducted by the council's Anti-Social Behaviour team in consultation with partner services and agencies. This research has identified a range of local community experiences, views and needs that are positively addressed in this proposal. 2. Partner agencies directly concerned with ASB, including Morecambe Town Council through its Community Safety Committee, have demonstrated strong support for the principle of establishing youth hang-out areas locally to meet young people's needs whilst helping to combat young people related anti-social behaviour. 3. Whilst no formal public consultation has been carried out in relation to this specific proposal, the town centre public locations chosen originally for both Morecambe bus station and the adjacent skate park balance high community needs for public facilities against low risks of serious disturbance to residents. Informal soundings about this proposal have been taken on the street with young people, who have confirmed their support for it. 4. Lancashire Police's neighbourhood policing team (which originally suggested this proposal during operational meetings with the council), the council's Anti-Social Behaviour team / Children & Young People Officer / Safeguarding Officer and Morecambe Town Council's community safety committee are supportive of this proposal, believing that it would be significantly beneficial to the reduction of young people related anti-social behaviour in Morecambe. The bus station site falls within Poulton neighbourhood policing area and will be patrolled by PCSOs. It will also be monitored by the council's Anti-Social Behaviour team when patrolling in Morecambe.

Step 1.4 – Assessing the impact

Q5. Using the existing data and the assessment in questions 3 what does it tell you, is there an impact on some groups in the community?

Age: Young people would be offered a sheltered hang-out area helping to meet a clearly identified existing community need affecting their age group. This need arises primarily at evenigs and weekends although also during school holidays. Other age groups would likely feel discouraged from sharing the hang-out area with groups of young people and, whilst they do not presently frequent the bus station in numbers or for significant periods of time during evenings and weekends, might experience some loss of the facility during daytime hours.

Disability: No adverse impacts identified.

Faith, Religion or Belief: No adverse impacts identified.

Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity: No adverse impacts identified. Gender Reassignment: No adverse impacts identified.

Race: No adverse impacts identified.

Sexual Orientation including Civic Partnership: No adverse impacts identified.

Rural Communities: No adverse impacts identified. This proposed facility in Morecambe town centre does no disservice to rural communities.

Step 1.5 – What are the differences?

Q6. If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

Establishing the hang-out area for young people would potentially have had some impact on other age groups' use of the facility, were it not for the fact that it had been scheduled for demolition until this proposal came forward.

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Q7. Do you need any more information/evidence eg statistic, consultation. If so how do you plan to address this?

No further information required.

Step 1.6 – Make a recommendation based on steps 1.1 to 1.5

Q8. If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, function, project or strategy, clearly show how it was decided on.

The proposal is net beneficial to community safety and the only discriminatory implication in principle - on grounds of age - will not be manifested because were it not for the young people hang-out area proposal then the building would have been demolished imminently.

Q9.

If you are not in a position to go ahead, what actions are you going to take?

N/A

Q10. How do you plan to monitor the impact and effectiveness of this change or decision?

No monitoring is required in view of the conclusion noted at Q8 above.