

Northampton Borough Council

Equality Impact Full Assessment Form for:

Corporate Plan 2012-2015 (2013 Review)

Project Name:	Corporate Plan EIA		
Date:	Reviewed February 2011 January 2012 February 2013	Release:	Final
Author:	Silvina Katz, Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager 01604 837573		

1.0 Contributors to the EIA

Kathy Brooks, Performance Team Leader (2011/12) and Silvina Katz, Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager

1.1 Aims/objectives and purpose of the policy/service

The Corporate Plan is a key driver for NBC as it sets our ambitions, challenges, priorities and key targets over the life of the plan. The Council is fully committed to delivering on its public sector equality duties.

The Corporate Plan for 2012/15 was adopted by the Council in February 2012. This document was a three-year plan which was subject to annual reviews. The focus of the 2013 update was to celebrate success so far and to acknowledge issues. This update consisted of a “light-touch” review.

The Corporate Plan priorities were developed in consultation with local residents, stakeholders (including the community and voluntary sector and the business community) and staff during 2010/11.

The Council key priorities were reviewed during the 2011/12 and 2012/13 budget and business planning processes. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 priorities were further informed by the priorities detailed within the Conservative Manifesto mandated through the 2011 May Elections. Draft budget proposals were developed to take into account these priorities.

Consultation on draft budget proposals for 2013/14 run from 20 December 2012 to 31 January 2013. Consultation feedback was used to clarify priorities, understand the impacts of draft budget proposals and inform spending/saving options to be reflected in our future plans and budget.

The development of the Corporate Plan has been informed by the consultation feedback and the Plan is presented for Cabinet endorsement.

To support monitoring and delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities, a number of key corporate measures will underpin the Plan.

2.0 Scope/focus of the EIA

In order to consider how the plan will impact on the communities it will be necessary to review:

- Previous EIA
- The process followed to produce the document (to check how all sectors of the community are able to contribute to the process)
- The components and priorities set (to check how all sectors of the community can benefit from the process)

3.0 Relevant data and/or undertake research

The Corporate Plan has been developed through:

- Experience and knowledge from the development of Corporate Plans from 2007 to 2012
- Reviewing examples of Corporate Plans from other authorities
- Understanding our residents profile

Other key datasets and relevant information include:

- Local Profile Census 2011
- Review of NBC Consultations 2010 through to 2013
- Alignment of Consultation Activity and Manifesto May 2011

4.0 Assess and/or undertake consultation

Northampton Borough Council consults local residents and stakeholders to help decide its key priorities and budget. In 2010/11 we asked people to comment in two stages as part of our **Difficult Choices** consultation programme. Phase 1 focused on key priority areas for residents and Phase 2 focused on priority savings and spending as part of the budget consultation. In 2011/12 mandate for priorities was obtained at the Local Elections in May 2011 and budgetary proposals were consulted during winter 2011/12 as part of the **Facing the Challenge** programme and again during 2012/13 for the forthcoming Budget.

To ensure a wide participation, the consultation approach used a range of consultation mechanisms including on-line and paper surveys, public meetings, community forums and overview and scrutiny meetings. The local media promoted the opportunities to take part.

A profile of respondents by gender, age and ethnicity was collected to monitor sample representation.

Council members, senior managers and key stakeholders were kept informed of the views that people were expressing.

All budget proposals and options and proposed policy changes were accompanied by an impact assessment to understand how these would affect the various communities and people and groups with protected characteristics (e.g. race, disability, gender or gender identity/assignment, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation, age, religion, faith and belief). Full details (including EIAs and related

information) are available at www.northampton.gov.uk/budget2013. The responses that people gave were used to inform the budget setting process.

5.0 Assessment of impact and outcomes

5.1 About the process

The consultation process was comprehensive and care was taken to ensure that views from sectors that are traditionally not reached were elicited and considered.

Consultation undertaken previously told us that people needed:

- Language to be clear and accessible to all sectors
- Accessible meetings, including across the town, to maximise opportunity to attend
- To understand impacts arising from any policy changes

Those views were taken into consideration and the language used in the survey questions and explanatory text was reviewed for clarity and simplicity, avoiding council acronyms and terminology where appropriate.

Surveys were made available in hard copy and on-line to ensure it was accessible to many. Care was taken in the design of the hard copy, which was available in alternative formats if requested. Assistance to complete the survey was available upon request.

5.2 About the components and priorities

There have been no adverse impacts identified in the development of the priorities or policy content of the Corporate Plan. The Plan positively details how the Council was assessed as being an Achieving Authority according to the Equality Framework for Local Government and aims to become Excellent by 2013.

Delivery of equalities spans across all services (including employment). The plan sets our priorities for improvement but also needs to reflect the other (including statutory) activities we need to do as a council.

The Plan has two themes with eight priority outcomes:

Your Town	You
Putting Northampton back on track	Better homes for the future
Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods	Creating empowered communities
Celebrating our heritage and culture	Promoting health and well-being
Making every £ go further	Responding to your needs

Full screening was undertaken for all policy options considered within the budget and priority setting. No adverse impact has been identified in relation to all protected characteristics including disability, gender (including reassignment) pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation in relation to the Corporate Plan.

5.3 Reducing any disproportionate adverse impact

See table below

5.4 Publication of result

Results of the consultation have been published on the web and on modern.gov as an attachment to Cabinet papers.

6.0 Monitoring and review

Monitoring and review will be undertaken as part of the Corporate Performance Framework and on-going self-assessment against the Equality Framework.

Compiled by: Silvina Katz

Date: 14 January 2013

Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

The table below should be completed using the information from the Equality Impact Assessment to produce an action plan for the implementation of proposals to:

1. Lower the negative impact? **And/Or**
2. Ensure that the negative impact is legal under anti-discriminatory law? **And/Or**
3. Provide an opportunity to promote equality, equal opportunity and improve relations within equality target groups? i.e. increase the positive impact

Please ensure that you update your service/business plan with the equality objectives/targets and actions identified below:

Area of negative impact/ concern	Changes proposed	Lead Officer	Timescale	Resource implication	Comments
The formulation of Corporate Plan process was iterative and involved a wide audience with differing requirements		Head Business Change	Agree timetable for future process	Within existing resources	Good governance
Due consideration of impact in relation to all policies and strategies	EIA should be led by managers responsible for the area being assessed to inform decision making		Ongoing and iterative	Within existing resources	Good governance
On the document: Language needs to be clear	Use plain English where possible - Communications Strategy	Performance Team Leader	At all stages of drafting and consultation.	Within existing resources	The plan is a key strategic document which should be accessible to all audiences
On consultation: Inclusivity and wider participation	Consider alternative means for consultation to ensure that those unable to attend public meetings can contribute effectively to the consultation and arranging public meeting across the town	Leaders supported by Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager	Consultation Process to span through priority and budget setting timetable	Within existing resources	Within the principles of the Community Engagement Strategy (having regard to Consultation Toolkit)
Equality Framework	Ensure greater consideration of equality issues in the development of Corporate Plan priorities in future years to ensure focus on addressing inequality	Senior Management/ Heads of Service	Service Plans to be agreed by March 2013	Within existing resources	

Sign off (Head of Service): Dale Robertson February 2012

Equality Impact Assessment: Summary Report

The results of equality impact assessments must be published. Please complete this summary, which will be used to publish the results of your impact assessment on the authority's web site and return it to the Policy Team

Date of Assessment: February 2013
Completing Officer's Title/Position: Silvina Katz, Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager
Service, Policy, Procedure, or Practice that was Impact Assessed: Corporate Plan
Summary of findings: Consultation results revealed that the profile of respondents to consultation matched the profile of the community at large. This is indicative of an inclusive process. Policy options and priority setting have been individually assessed for community impact and mitigation on reviews put in place as appropriate. The 2013 refresh has reviewed achievements from 2012 and confirmed priorities.
Summary of Recommendations and Key Points of Action Plan: Future developments in the Corporate Plan need to give consideration to addressing equalities issues in the identification of priorities and key actions and they also need to be clearly reflected in relevant service plans. An ongoing assessment will be needed in relation to individual policies and policy changes to understand how their implementation has affected communities.
Groups that this policy will impact upon: ALL protected characteristics (in accordance with the Equality Act)