

## EqIA – Full Equality Impact Assessment

### Step 1: Introduction

**Policy or Service to be assessed:** Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy

**Service and lead officer:** Sara Turnbull, Localism Workstream Lead

**Officers involved in the EqIA:**  
Sara Turnbull, Workstream Lead  
Leone Dale, Policy Officer

**What are you impact assessing?**

- Existing
- New/proposed
- Changing/Update revision

**Other, please list:** N/A

### Step 2: Scoping – what are you assessing?

**What is the title of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy

**What is the aim of your service/strategy/policy/project?**

To develop a devolution framework to enable local organisations, particularly town and parish councils, to take on greater local control over the running of Buckinghamshire Council's services and assets.

Appendix 1 to the Shadow Executive Report sets out a draft policy recommended for approval. The purpose of the policy is to enable a fair, transparent governance process for how the new Buckinghamshire Council will consider devolution requests from external organisations.

**Who does/will it have an impact on? E.g. public, visitors, staff, members, partners?**

Residents

Town and parish councils

Community organisations

Potentially staff in relation to any future service areas which may be devolved.

**Will there be an impact on any other functions, services or policies? If so, please provide more detail**

It is anticipated that the policy will enable a range of devolution deals to take place so that services and assets are transferred to local organisations to run.

All devolution transfers will individually be subject to subsequent decisions by officers or Cabinet/Cabinet Member. As part of the expression of interest and business plan (where required) there is an expectation that the applicant would provide details of how the transfer would benefit local residents. The first and foremost assessment criteria for consideration of devolution transfers will be the benefit and consideration of impact on residents. The template forms will include this information as a requirement.

Further EIA screenings and assessments will be required in relation to specific devolution transfers.

The proposed policy is a corporate policy for Buckinghamshire Council and as such will impact on all service areas. In particular property, neighbourhood services, localities, legal and finance.

**Are there any potential barriers to implementing changes to your service/strategy/policy/ project?**

There are no barriers identified to implementing this policy. There are a range of operational challenges to ensure that the wider devolution programme meets stakeholder expectations to deliver at pace. These challenges are mitigated through the proposed approach and investment in establishing a small devolution team to deliver, as set out in the Shadow Executive paper.

### Step 3: Information gathering – what do you need to know about your customers?

<b>What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your policy or strategy will have an impact on, that is broken down by equality strand?</b>	
Age/Disability:	N/A
Gender re-assignment:	N/A
Race:	N/A
Religion or belief:	N/A
Sex:	N/A
Sexual orientation:	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity:	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership:	N/A
As a corporate governance policy no specific service users are identified at this stage. As identified above this type of data will be considered as part of specific further EIAs on individual devolution deals as required.	

<p><b>Do you need any further information broken down by equality strand to inform this EqlA?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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<p><b>Is there any potential for direct or indirect discrimination?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Applicants will be expected to provide information on their submission on impact on the community, and the Devolution Board will be required to consider the equalities impact of each transfer as part of the Council's legal obligations in meeting the requirements of the Equalities Act/public sector duty.</p> <p>The Devolution Board will be looking for evidence of positive impact on communities as the most critical factor in decision-making on transfers.</p>
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### Step 4: Making a judgement about impacts

<b>What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your policy or strategy will have an impact on, that is broken down by equality strand?</b>	
Age:	N/A
Disability:	N/A
Gender re-assignment:	N/A

Race:	N/A
Religion or belief:	N/A
Sex:	N/A
Sexual orientation:	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity:	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership:	N/A

**Conclusion:**

As identified above, no specific improvements or actions are identified as it is intended to ensure that as part of the implementation of the policy that the equalities impact of individual devolution transfers are carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. The template expressions of interest form and business plan form will ensure that necessary information is captured to understand the equalities impact.

**Step 5: Improvement plan – what are you going to change?**

Issue	Action	Performance target (what difference will it make)	Lead Officer	Achieved
Ensuring the impact of devolution deals on residents and equalities is understood.	Ensure template forms cover this information.	Equalities Impact Assessment Screening and assessments will be completed for individual devolution transfer requests.	Sara Turnbull	To include in implementation planning.
Ensuring that devolution deals are agreed where organisations are able to meet legal obligations.	Ensure that as part of the assessment process for devolution deals organisations provide evidence that they can meet their public sector equality duty.	Ensure that all residents and service users are able to access services fairly without discrimination.	As above	As above

<b>Date:</b>	31 October 2019
<b>Next review date:</b>	31 March 2021