

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Reference - 4E5b

Department	Department of Place	Version no	4.0
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Approved by	Ian Day	Date approved	
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The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- foster good relations between different groups

Section 1: What is being assessed?

1.1 Name of proposal to be assessed.

Public Conveniences

1.2 Describe the proposal under assessment and what change it would result in if implemented.

The proposal is to remove the budget for the funding for all public toilets (except City Park). Unless alternative service providers were able to fund and operate the remaining toilet blocks the following sites would be closed:

Riverside - Ilkley
 Central Car Park - Ilkley
 Haworth Park - Haworth
 Bronte Parsonage - Haworth
 Northgate - Baildon
 Jubilee Gardens - Bingley
 Caroline Street - Saltaire

Section 2: What the impact of the proposal is likely to be

2.1 Will this proposal advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and/or foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those that do not? If yes, please explain further.

No

2.2 Will this proposal have a positive impact and help to eliminate discrimination and harassment against, or the victimisation of people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.

No

2.3 Will this proposal potentially have a negative or disproportionate impact on people who share a protected characteristic? If yes, please explain further.

In terms of the closure of the toilets there is likely to be a disproportionate impact on older people, pregnant women, parents requiring access to baby changing facilities, young children, the transgender community, disabled people, particularly those with complex needs, and people who, because of a physical condition, may need to visit the toilet with increased regularity.

2.4 Please indicate the level of negative impact on each of the protected characteristics?

(Please indicate high (H), medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each)

Protected Characteristics:	Impact (H, M, L, N)
Age	M
Disability	M
Gender reassignment	M
Race	N
Religion/Belief	N
Pregnancy and maternity	M
Sexual Orientation	N
Sex	N
Marriage and civil partnership	N
Additional Consideration:	
Low income/low wage	N

2.5 How could the disproportionate negative impacts be mitigated or eliminated?

Ascertain whether parish / town councils community or other voluntary groups could take over the running of those blocks proposed for closure. Current negotiations surrounding Cat transfers to Parish Councils and Voluntary organisations are progressing well.

3.1 Please consider which other services would need to know about your proposal and the impacts you have identified. Identify below which services you have consulted, and any consequent additional equality impacts that have been identified.

None

Section 4: What evidence you have used?

4.1 What evidence do you hold to back up this assessment?

The assessment is based on recognised research on groups of people who need more regular access to toilets.

4.2 Do you need further evidence?

More detailed information on the proposals will become clearer as the consultation process goes forward.

Section 5: Consultation Feedback

5.1 Results from any previous consultations prior to the proposal development.

Participants in previous consultations to support Council budget setting have identified that reduced access to public toilets will have an impact on many people. Some participants from the 2014/15 budget consultation thought it important to have toilets as changing place for disabled people with complex needs, baby changing and those suffering with incontinence. People might be left isolated and lose independence if provision is reduced. Families with young children will also be affected. There was a perception that the transgender community could be affected as they will lose anonymity if they have to use pub or shop toilets.

Council budget consultation 2017/18:

In all cases it is felt that PC's should not be closed as they provide a valuable facility for local people and encourage tourism.

There is concern that closure will lead to people being isolated in their own homes, and knock on environmental concerns.

5.2 The departmental feedback you provided on the previous consultation (as at 5.1).

The feedback regarding Gender Reassignment was incorporated into the assessment of impact levels. The original 2014 proposals were for Bronte Parsonage (Haworth) Brook Street (Ilkley) and Caroline Street (Saltaire) to remain open. However following further consultation it was agreed that additional blocks

would also remain open at Central Park (Haworth) Northgate (Baildon) and Riverside Park (Ilkley).

With regards provision at Shipley a local business has allowed use near the market Square and ASDA allow the public to use their toilets.

Council budget consultation 2017/18:

The department have approached relevant Parish Councils, Friends of Groups and other interested community groups whether they would be interested in taking over the running of the toilets. The discussions surrounding takeover and Community Asset Transfers are progressing well

5.3 Feedback from current consultation following the proposal development (e.g. following approval by Executive for budget consultation).

To follow

5.4.1 Your departmental response to the feedback on the current consultation (as at 5.3) – include any changes made to the proposal as a result of the feedback.

To follow