

Implementing open data platform to support local government transparency code: record of decision that Equality Impact Assessment is not required

Directorate and service area	Technology & Change: Business Intelligence
-------------------------------------	--

Name and contact of officer(s) taking decision that EIA not required

Ameena Mughal Ameena.Mughal@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 798545
Tom Jenkinson tom.jenkinson@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 533808

What are you proposing to do?

Implementing an Open Data platform which will publish data in an open and machine- readable format to facilitate re-use.

Why are you proposing this?

To ensure that NYCC complies with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014. The code sets out the minimum data local authorities must publish, how often it should publish this data and the method of publication.

Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?

No. The system procurement and implementation will require some resource but as an automated process there will be very little future staffing input. Procurement processes should ensure best value.

Will this proposal change anything for customers or staff? What will change?

The benefit for customers is that the system will make it easier for people to find and use data about council spending & provision of services. This will enable individual citizens or representative groups to engage in the democratic process in a more informed way and e.g. provide appropriate challenge to the council.

The automated process will mean that the Web Services Manager no longer needs to act to publish items to the website.

Will the proposal make things worse for people with protected characteristics (age, disability, sex, disability, gender reassignment, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership)? (Customers, staff etc). How do you know? Do you have any evidence to support your assessment?

The overall impact will be positive on people with protected characteristics. Although the complexity of some information may make it difficult for some individuals e.g. people with learning disabilities to use it there are a range of support or campaigning groups who are likely to use the data to check that people with protected characteristics are getting a fair deal e.g. in the way money is spent. Data is already made available on our website, often in pdf format which can be difficult for some people e.g. those with visual impairments to access. The new system will expand the information available and will be accessible via a range of assistive technologies.

Some older and younger people and people with disabilities may have less income available to allow purchase of ICT equipment or broadband access. Some rural areas of the county still have limited broadband access.

If there might be a negative impact on people with protected characteristics can this impact be reduced? How?

The network of council and community run libraries provide free access to ICT with a range of assistive technologies and access to support from staff and volunteers.

Could the proposal have a significant negative impact on some people with protected characteristics or a less severe negative impact on a lot of people with protected characteristics? If "Yes" more detailed analysis should be undertaken and an EIA completed.

No.

Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)?

No.

Could the proposal have a greater negative impact on people in rural areas?

It will improve social access and inclusion, as data and information will be more readily available to those who live in isolated and rural areas. Although some rural areas have challenges in accessing broadband this situation is improving and the availability of free internet access in libraries will reduce this impact.

Could the proposal have a worse impact on people with less money?

It would have an impact to those who do not have a computer, tablet or smart phone and cannot afford one. However, people are able to access ICT free in libraries.

Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics?

Discussions are underway with partners, including District Councils who may utilise the system. This will increase the information available to citizens including those with protected characteristics.

Do the answers to the previous questions make it reasonable to conclude that there will be no or very limited adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Yes

Will there be no or limited adverse impacts on people in rural areas?

Yes


Will there be no or limited adverse impacts on people with less money?

Yes

Further analysis and full EIA required

No

Decision not to undertake EIA approved by (Assistant Director or equivalent):

 Robert Ling

Signature & name

Date:

8/7/2014