



**East Staffordshire Borough Council
Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)**

This EHIA documents how you have taken into account health impacts and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the decision making process for this function, policy or service.

1	Title of function, policy or service to be assessed: Digital Strategy
2	Date: 20 th September 2018
3	Name of EHIA author: Daniel Arnold
4	EHIA team: Daniel Arnold James Abbott
5	Head of Service: Sal Khan
6	Is the policy, function or service existing, new or being reviewed? New strategy
7	State the aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or service and provide a summary of the service provided: The digital strategy aims to outline the Council's vision and intentions for its approach to digital services over the strategies lifecycle of 3 years.
8	Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purpose of this EHIA? ICT, Customer Service, Procurement
9	Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population)? The strategy is intended to benefit both the Council, in terms of creating more efficient process, and also the public, by meeting the digital expectations of our residents and business in our customer service. The strategy's vision also outlines that the Council will continue to provide traditional customer service where appropriate.

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Equality impacts

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Within this table, state whether the policy, function or service will have a positive or negative impact across the following protected characteristics and provide any comments.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments
Age	✓		Provide a method of service, digital or traditional, that is available to all ages.
Disability	✓		Ensure that website accessibility requirements are met. Provides tools for those who require screen readers or different colour contrasts.
Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity	✓		E-services are accessible 24/7 which may meet the requirements of those who are pregnant or on maternity.
Race	✓		Translation available on the website. Website optimised for Google Translate.
Religion or belief			
Sexual orientation			
Other			

11.

What evidence do you have for the statements made in question 10?

The programme plan within the strategy outlines the Council’s intentions for the lifecycle of the strategy. In particular, it details the target of ensuring website accessibility and providing and 24/7 online self-service provision. The vision also demonstrates the commitment that the authority has for ensuring that the more traditional methods for customer service are maintained where appropriate.

12	<p>Consultation: Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function, policy or service, who was involved and the outcomes.</p> <p>In developing the strategy, internal consultation has been undertaken with key members of staff and has also benchmarked information from other local authorities and academic studies. The strategy will also be approved through the usual decision making process.</p>															
13	<p>Briefly explain how the policy, function or service contributes to community cohesion by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment? • Does it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities? • How will it help to prevent social exclusion? • Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded? • Will this assist with communities feeling that they are connected to decision making that affects them? • How will it provide good quality, inclusive services? <p>The strategy outlines how the Council intends to meet the digital expectations of our residents and businesses whilst ensuring that we continue to provide traditional methods of communication and customer service where appropriate. The strategy will increase democratic engagement and will strive to improve the quality and accessibility of our service by following best practice.</p>															
14	<p>Health impacts – screening question Will the subject of this EHIA:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1299 1490 1881"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No (provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> <th>Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?</td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?</td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please refer to the EHIA guidance document. If you answer yes to any of these questions a health impact assessment is required, please complete section 16.</p>		No (provide a brief explanation of your response)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? provide a brief explanation of your response)	Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?	No		Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?	No		Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?	No		Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?	No	
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Head of Service signature: I am satisfied with the results of this EHIA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Khan", is written over the signature line.

16. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT¹

To be completed if you have answered yes to any of the health impact screening questions.

A. Describe the health impact(s). Please refer to the screening questions in Q14.	B. Answering yes to these questions indicates an important health impact. Be explicit and include the evidence that has been considered.			C. Are the health impacts significant?
Identify the health impact(s)	Will the health impacts affect the whole population? Will it affect particular groups of people differently?	Will the health impacts be difficult to remedy or have an irreversible impact? Are they likely to cause public concern?	Will the health impacts be medium to long term? Are they likely to create cumulative impacts?	Does this health impact have a significant positive or negative impact? (based on your responses to section B)

¹ Adapted from 'Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, a guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process.' Department of Health, July 2010 p.13

17. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Please describe the actions, if any, you will take to mitigate against negative health or equality impacts identified in this assessment, or to maximise the benefits of the policy or service. If significant action is required it should be included in Service Plans.

Is it a Health or Equality action?	Issue/impact identified	Recommendation / action required	Lead officer and timescale	Resource allocation