## Equality Impact Assessment

### Validation Decision Notice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EIA Reference Number</th>
<th>198</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service, policy, or strategy</td>
<td>Revision of public conveniences provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element(s) assessed</td>
<td>Proposed change in provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of Assessors</td>
<td>Corporate Director of BDBC Services, Policy Officer, Local Tax Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consider:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the service promoting equality?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could the service be improved in promoting equality?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the customers' needs understood and met?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the summary report clear and easy to understand?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The decision is to: Validate ✓ Not validate ☑️

The reason(s) for the decision are: *please give details below*

- Validation given – information correct ✓
- Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect |
- Not validated - screening error |
- Not validated – research/consultation error |
- Not validated – improvement error |

**Signed**

[Signature]

**Name**

LAURA TAYLOR

**Designation**

DIRECTOR

**Date**

07/16/13
The Assessment

This assessment considers the impact of the proposed changes to the provision of public conveniences in the borough on the protected characteristics and other potentially vulnerable groups. It aims to demonstrate that due regard has been paid to the Public Sector Equality Duty by considering any differentially negative impacts on specific groups, and considering mitigating impacts to overcome these, or any differentially positive impacts of the proposals that will further promote equality. Where relevant, it will also consider whether good relations can be developed between different groups.

The findings from this assessment will be included in a report sent to councillors to inform their decision-making process. The public conveniences under consideration are:

- Anchor Yard – proposed closure
- Buckingham Parade, Kempshott – proposed closure
- Castons Yard – no change
- Cemetery – no change
- Eastrop Park – improvements underway
- Stratton Park – no change
- Tadley – work to establish a community toilet scheme
- Bell Street, Whitchurch – work to establish a community toilet scheme
- Bourne Meadow, St Mary Bourne – work to establish a community toilet scheme
- Kingsclere – work to establish a community toilet scheme
- Overton – work to establish a community toilet scheme

This proposal has been informed by a research on usage statistics, types of service users and consultation with Parish Councils and representative forms (e.g. Access Group, Older Persons’ Form).

Assessment Findings

The initial discussion around groups that could be differentially affected by the proposed closure of Anchor Yard and Buckingham Parade public conveniences considered the needs of: disabled people, older people, families with young children or babies and pregnant women.

It was confirmed that, in all instances where public conveniences are proposed to be closed, usage information has been taken into consideration and, where possible, appropriate alternatives have been put forward to mitigate any potential adverse impacts of the closure on the protected characteristics groups and other service users.
Equality Impact Assessment

Briefing Note - Stage 1

With reference to the public conveniences that will remain open, no positive differential impacts on the protected characteristics groups were identified.

Justification

This proposal has a direct impact on all service users, including the protected characteristics groups. It was decided to move to Stage 2 to assess this in more detail.
The Assessment

This assessment considers the impact of the proposed changes to the provision of public conveniences in the borough on the protected characteristics and other potentially vulnerable groups. It aims to demonstrate that due regard has been paid to the Public Sector Equality Duty by considering any differentially negative impacts on specific groups, and considering mitigating impacts to overcome these, or any differentially positive impacts of the proposals that will further promote equality.

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Customers, Consultation and Research

The main customers of these facilities are residents and visitors. This assessment has taken into account public conveniences usage statistics, which include the number and type of service users and the results of consultation carried out with the Older Person’s Forum, Access Group, Parish Councils and Ward Members. It has also considered the Age Concern report ‘Nowhere to go: Public toilet provision in the UK (May 2007). This evidence suggests that a shortage of public conveniences is a significant contributory factor in the isolation of older people. More than half of older people found that a lack of local public conveniences prevented them from going out as often as they would like.

Assessment Findings

The initial discussion around groups that could be differentially affected by the proposed closure of Anchor Yard and Buckingham Parade public conveniences considered the specific
Equality Impact Assessment  

Summary Report - Stage 6

needs of: disabled people, older people, families with young children or babies and pregnant women. However, on closer scrutiny of the evidence, the following was revealed:

Anchor Yard
Usage level of this facility is high, however, it is outdated and the nearby public conveniences at Castons Yard offer sufficient provision for the level of use in the area.

Impact
- No differential impact identified on any protected characteristics groups as there are other public conveniences at Castons Yard, which is are very short distance away.

Mitigating actions
- Officers to explore the ability to provide ten minutes free parking near to the toilets in Castons Yard.
- Clear signage publicising the proposed change in service should be made available.
- The Town Centre MAP be asked to consider future provision of toilet facilities in Top of the Town (this would include the potential to establish provision of a community toilet scheme to supplement any new or improved toilet provision).

Buckingham Parade, Kempshott
Usage level of this facility is low and a significant proportion of users are taxi drivers. The local ward member could see no reason to retain the toilets at Buckingham Parade. The Access Group members were also unaware of any demand for the facility. When considering the types of shops in the parade, it was noted that service users are likely to spend less time using them than in a village or town for example. It was also established that no other parades of shops in the Borough have toilet facilities.

Impact
- There was no differential impact identified on the protected characteristics groups that have access to a car. However, older people and those who have medical conditions, some disabled people with specific needs, families with young children or babies and pregnant women, who do not have access to a car, could be differentially negatively impacted on by the closure. Based on the usage numbers and evidence noted above, this would be a very small number of people.

Mitigating actions:
- The closure should be clearly publicised well in advance to allow people to make other arrangements and information regarding the Stratton Park facility provided.

A generally positive impact of closing these two facilities is that the savings can be re-invested into other necessary services, which will benefit all residents. An example of this is the Top of Town development, which offers the possibility of developing a new more modern service.

It is proposed to maintain the following public conveniences. There was no differentially positive impact identified on the protected characteristics groups, however, the continuation of this provision is positive for all residents:
Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report - Stage 6

Basingstoke Town
- Castons Yard – this has a medium usage level and was the preferred option for the top of town by the Access Forum (between this and Anchor Yard).
- Cemetery – this has a medium usage level and is the only local provision available for grieving friends and relatives.
- Eastrop Park – this has a high usage level and these facilities will be extended and improved by summer 2013.
- Stratton Park – this has sporadic usage, which peaks when football or cricket activities take place. This is good for the families with young children who use the park.

Outside Basingstoke Town Centre
- Tadley – this service has a low usage level and other options are being considered.
- Whitchurch – although usage is low, the Access Group confirmed that this facility is well used. The local ward member noted that several older people that walk into the centre rely on them.
- Overtown – this has a medium usage level and the Access Group confirmed that these are well used. The local ward member noted that there is no suitable alternative provision.
- Kingsclere – the usage level of these is low.
- St Mary Bourne – this has a medium usage level. The local ward member noted that there are possible alternatives.

With the public conveniences that are outside of the town centre, work is taking place to look at the possibility of establishing community toilet schemes and alternatives will be considered with the local parish council. The situation for these facilities will be reviewed in 18 months’ time.

Recommendations
- Any signage to indicate the closure of a toilet and nearest/alternative provision should be publicised well in advance, clearly positioned and written in Plain English.
- EIAs should be carried out on the alternative community toilets schemes proposed to ensure that protected characteristics groups are not disadvantaged by the proposals.
- Any community scheme put in place should have clearly sign-posted accessible toilet provision.
- Community schemes or other alternatives should not be limited to local public house provision, which may not be acceptable for people of certain faiths (as well as other people in general).