Equality Impact Assessment
Validation Decision Notice

EIA Reference Number 160
Element(s) assessed All
Names of Assessors Policy Manager (council), Paralegal, Information Management (Legislation and RIPA ) officer

Consider:
Was discrimination or disadvantage identified? Yes No
Was the service promoting equality? Yes No
Could the service be improved in promoting equality? Yes No
Are the customers’ needs understood and met? Yes No
Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren’t affected? Yes No
Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment? Yes No
Is the summary report clear and easy to understand? Yes No
If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings? Yes No

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

Designation
Corporate Director

Date
26 July 2012

Name
Karen Brimacombe
Equality Impact Assessment

Stage 1

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<td>Date of meeting</td>
<td>24 May 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Titles of assessors</td>
<td>Policy Manager (Council), Paralegal, Information Management (Legislation and RIP Act) Officer</td>
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The Assessment

Give details of the service/policy etc under consideration.

The policy outlines the council’s ability to undertake directed covert surveillance and use a covert human intelligence source under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The purpose of the policy is to outline the powers and restrictions granted by the Act and sets out the procedures for obtaining authorisations. The policy is being updated to take into account organisational changes and changes afforded by the introduction of the Freedoms Act 2012.

Assessment Findings

Detail the key findings of the briefing discussion.

Full scoping not required.

Justification

Explain your decision to proceed/not proceed with either a scoping/screening or a full EIA.

Please note that if the service/policy etc. has any relevance to people e.g. Youth Strategy, HR policy a scoping/screening exercise will need to be carried out in all cases.

Although the use of surveillance, as permitted by RIP Act, may impact on individuals, the policy ensures that the actions of the council are lawful, proportionate and necessary. The council is restricted to undertaking surveillance for the purposes of 'prevention or detection of crime' only. One of the potential uses of surveillance would be in cases of suspected benefit fraud, where there could be an overall benefit to the council’s residents, particularly those in need of benefits, through stopping fraudulent claims for benefits.
Equalit5y Impact Assessment

Stage 6

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The Assessment

Give full details of what was assessed, who did the work, and the evidence that was used to make judgements and draw conclusions.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Policy and Procedure was assessed. This policy sets out the ability of the council to undertake surveillance, the legal restrictions, as set out under the legislation and the authorisation procedure. The purpose of the policy is to ensure the council is acting lawfully in its enforcement activities.

The Customer/Customer Group

Detail any additional information gathered on a customer or customer group.

Consultation and Research

Detail the information gathered during research and/or consultation.

Key Individuals and Organisations

Supply the names and contact details for any organisations or key individuals who assisted you.

Assessment Findings

Detail the key findings of the assessment.

No full assessment required. While there may be a potential positive impact on some groups, the policy is in place in order to ensure any surveillance activity is necessary and proportionate.

Recommendations

State the recommendations for action e.g. improvement plan actions.