# Stage 6 – Validation Decision Notice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of policy/proposal etc. and EIA number</th>
<th>38 - Revision of public conveniences provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of assessment</td>
<td>24.06.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job titles of assessors</td>
<td>Director of BDBC Services, Project Manager (MIS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider:

- Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?  
  Yes  

- If so, was this overcome/can this be overcome? **It can be overcome**
  Yes

- Is the service promoting equality?  
  Yes

- Could the service be improved in promoting equality?  
  Yes

- Were the Initial Assessment / Screening and Scoping exercises satisfactory?  
  Yes

- Is there good evidence/reasoning to support the decisions made?  
  Yes

- Are the customers' needs understood and met?  
  Yes

- If actions have been identified, do they address the main issues raised?  
  Yes

- Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?  
  Yes

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If you have any comments, please note them here:

These are alternative informal facilities in the area & the report indicates such low usage that it appears these are already used by the public. The exploration of a community toilet scheme is warranted.

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The decision is to:  

- Validate [X]  
- Not validate

If not validated, please explain:

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Signed:  

[Signature]

Designation:  

[Title]

Name:  

[Name]

Date:  

24.09.15
The Assessment

This assessment considers the impact of the proposed changes to the provision of public conveniences outside of Basingstoke town centre 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:

- Tadley – proposed closure and work to establish a community toilet scheme
- Bell Street, Whitchurch – no change proposed
- Bourne Meadow, St Mary Bourne – no change proposed
- Kingsclere – toilets to be retained, facilities to be inspected in order to ascertain if any improvements can be made to disabled access and further work to explore the options of a community toilet scheme
- Overton – no change proposed

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

Where no change is proposed, or existing toilets are to be retained, no further assessment has been undertaken. As a result, the EIA focuses on the proposed closure of facilities at Tadley.

Assessment Findings

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

It was confirmed that, in this case, 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.

**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.
Stage 5 – Summary Report

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Assessment Summary

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) considers the impact of the proposed changes to the provision of public conveniences in Tadley 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 (Equality Act 2010) 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.

Customers, Consultation and Research

The proposal to close Tadley public conveniences and this equalities assessment have been informed by research on usage statistics, types of service users and consultation with Parish Councils, business associations and representative forums (eg. Access Group, Older Person’s Forum).

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, business associations, 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 Tadley public conveniences considered the specific 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:
Equality Impact Assessment

Tadley

Usage level of these facilities is extremely low and there are other toilet facilities (including those with disabled access) in a number of other buildings in Tadley. While the public are not positively invited into these buildings solely to use the toilet, they are available for use by customers e.g. library, Sainsburys, community centre etc.

Impact:
- Minimal differential impact identified on any protected characteristics groups.

Mitigating actions:
- Officers are to continue to work with the Town Council and local businesses/communities to explore the establishment of a community toilet scheme.
- Provide clear signage, in plain English, publicising the proposed change in service should be made available.
- Details of the closure should be provided to community groups, particularly those supporting the visually impaired.

A generally positive impact of closing these facilities is that the savings can be re-invested into other necessary services, which will benefit all residents.

Recommendations

- Any signage to indicate the closure of the Tadley facilities should be publicised well in advance, clearly positioned and written in Plain English and shared with community groups, particularly those that support people who are visually impaired.

- An equalities assessment should be carried out on any alternative community toilet scheme 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).