

Midlothian Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



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Lead contact: Lindsay Haddow

Section A: Introduction

1. Title of policy, procedure or function being assessed

Midlothian Council Parking Standards

2. Divisions/organisations/groups involved in doing this Equality Impact Assessment

Lindsay Haddow, Policy Planning Manager, Corporate Resources
Lynne Barclay, Business Development Adviser, Corporate Resources
James Crombie, Susanne Tait, Carol Cramb, Nigel Clerk, Midlothian Disability Access Panel

3. Date started: 15 February 2012

Date completed: 22 June 2015

Section B: Information

4. Please describe the Policy, Procedure or Function you are impact assessing

New Scottish Government policy and guidance 'Designing Streets' has drastically changed street design and the previous standards used by local authorities are now inappropriate. This revised policy document seeks to provide policy and guidance, specific to Midlothian, taking into account our urban and rural environments, road safety and encouragement of sustainable/green modes of transport

5. What information and consultation data do you have to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

Scottish Government policy and guidance 'Designing Streets'

Scottish Planning and Policy Document addendum to NPPG17 'Transport and Planning Maximum Parking Standards' and NPPG17 'Cycling by Design' Standards

SEStran published parking standards which are largely based on accessibility information present in other EQIA in relation to car parking and equalities groups

6. Do you need more information or more consultation/engagement data?

- Do you need anything more:
 - i. to do this Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)
 - ii. to monitor or assess, in future, the impact of the policy/procedure or function you are EQIAing on people with different equalities characteristics
- Lack of data is not a sufficient reason to conclude there is no impact. It is insufficient to state that a policy will affect everyone equally without having considered the different barriers some people may encounter.

Consultation has been undertaken with Midlothian Disability Access Panel and also with Forward Mid (contact made by Midlothian Disability Access Panel). Discussion and consultation will continue with this group through other policy planning processes and with other groups, if and when felt necessary

Section C: Assessment

Midlothian Council equality impact assesses on **all** of the characteristics in the box below, so you should consider all of these in your assessment. If you want you can consider other groups as well.

Race (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality);

Disability (e.g. physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, mental health conditions or long-term illnesses)

Gender (male/female);

Age (all ages)

Sexual Orientation (gay man, gay woman/lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual/straight);

Religion or belief (including having no religion or belief)

Pregnancy and maternity (having just had a baby or being pregnant);

Gender reassignment or transgender status (a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process to change their sex)

Marriage and Civil Partnership

People experiencing poverty or at risk of poverty: (poverty may be simply defined as not having enough money to meet one's basic daily needs or to have the things that most people in the UK take for granted).

As you answer questions 7i. to 7iv. over the page:

- a) **Think about the policy, practice or function you are assessing and**
 - people with the above characteristics
 - people associated with them (e.g. a parent or carer)
 - people mistakenly assumed to have the above characteristics
- b) **Consider whether the above people are likely to have different needs, or be affected in different ways by what you are doing/proposing. e.g.**
 - People may need, or benefit from, information provided in a particular format, like large print or easyread.
 - A queuing system which relies on people standing for long periods will make it very difficult for some people to use the service.
 - Charging more for a service is likely to affect people from several of the groups in the box above, as on average they have a lower income.
 - Targeting an area of high poverty could leave people experiencing poverty outside the area even worse off in comparison
- c) **Consider the General Equality Duty requirements to pay due regard to the need to:**
 - eliminate discrimination, victimization, harassment or other local conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the characteristics listed in box at the top of this page (except poverty)
 - advance equality of opportunity between and foster good relations between people who share the characteristics in the box (except marriage and civil partnership and poverty)

7i. Note any positive impacts on the above equalities groups

The policy sets out the required size, road markings and numbers of disabled spaces required for new developments. After consultation further detail such as maximum distances from disabled parking and maximum gradients were added. This should increase access for disabled people at all new developments.

Women with children are over represented as drivers at retail outlets. Additional extra wide bays for parent and child spaces should increase the ease of access for women in these situations. Extra wide bays may also assist pregnant women and anyone with a temporary disability such as an injury affecting walking.

7ii. Note any negative impacts on equalities groups

There are no obvious negative impacts as the policy also covers cycle parking provision that will assist anyone who doesn't drive for financial or other reasons.

7iii. How significant would this negative impact be, and what kind of numbers would be affected?

7iv. Note any opportunities for making a positive impact on equalities groups.

It is hoped that the additional features added to the Parking Standards after consultation will make a positive impact on disabled people, women with children, people in poverty (cycle parking) and people who may have a temporary injury (extra wide bays)

Section D: Actions and Outcomes

8. Note any actions you will be taking as a result of this equality impact assessment:

Think about what you can do to:

- minimise or remove any negative impacts, and
- maximise the opportunities for positive impacts

actions taken have been taken as noted in section 9

9. Please note any actions you have already taken as a result of this assessment here.

The following issues were raised and discussed by the group and the outcomes will be incorporated into the draft Parking Standards Policy

1. Distance to disabled parking bays from Main Point of Access/Disabled Point of Access - bays to be 45 metres or less from these access points
2. Cognisance to be taken of the location of disabled parking bays when installing speed cushions or dropped kerbs, in some instances to manoeuvre from parking bay to dropped kerb there is a requirement to negotiate speed cushions
3. Reivew of path gradients when locating disabled parking bays suggest 1:12/1:20
4. Specifically in relation to retail developments the increase/addition of extra wide spaces, similar to Parent and Child spaces
5. Within new housing developments designation of disabled bay within visitor parking

10. How will you track/monitor that the actions you mentioned in 8. have been achieved?

e.g. by adding them to a work plan, service plan etc.

N/A

11. If you have decided not to take any action please note why this is, and any justification, here.

A significant negative impact, even if it affects only a small number of people, should be addressed.

We have not identified a negative impact.

Is a more detailed assessment recommended?No