

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment

Title of Policy/Service/Contract: Building Control

Division: Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control

Lead Officer: Yvonne Leddy

Date Assessment completed: November 2013

1. SCOPING

1.1 What are the aims of the policy, service/service change or contract?

1. The purpose of Building Control is to ensure that anyone wishing to design, construct or alter a building does so to a set of national standards. This is to secure the health and safety of people who are in, or in the vicinity of building including conservation of fuel and power, and to provide facilities and access for the disabled.
2. To ensure structures which are in immediate danger of collapse are made safe. This includes provision of an emergency out of hours service.
3. Control demolitions of buildings or parts of buildings exceeding 50 m³.

1.2 Who does the service/policy/contract affect? Who are the main customers (internal or external)?

1. The users of the service are external designers, builders and property owners.
2. Internal users are the Development Control section, Planning Policy, Council Tax, the Contracts Section for construction projects and Community Services section.

1.3 What equality information is available, including any evidence from engagement and analysis of use of services?

Customer survey undertaken in 2009 did not identify any particular equality issues for a specific group but we have introduced service improvements that will benefit all users i.e. tailored service through our partnership schemes, consistency in our approach on how we apply the regulations, speed of plan vetting of applications.

1.4 What does this information tell us about the equality issues associated with the service and implications for the protected groups?

No specific issues identified for the protected groups.

1.5 Are contractors or partnerships used to deliver the service? No.

If No go to section 2.

If yes, please refer to the guidance notes, particularly Appendix One of the MSDC Guidance "Integrating Equality and Diversity into Procurement", and complete the next three questions.

Identify the contractors/partnerships used to deliver the service.

N/A

What is their contribution to equality in service delivery and the promotion of equality?

N/A

How are equality issues addressed through contractual arrangements and service level agreements?

N/A

2. Assessment of Impact; Analysis and Action Planning

Any gaps in information or provision, opportunities to promote equalities and good relations identified above need to be translated into SMART actions and recorded here. These actions need to be delivered and monitored through the service planning process.

Opportunity to promote equality, good relations and/or address barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
The needs of different ethnic groups including white minorities, but also established white communities				
BME groups may be disadvantaged due to language and cultural barriers. Language barriers from migrant building workers.	Use of translation and interpreting service if required	None identified.		
The needs of men and women. Including taking account of pregnancy and maternity.				
None identified.	N/A	None identified.		
The needs of disabled people				
Disabled people could have difficulties accessing properties if they are not appropriately designed and built.	<p>The service checks that Part M of the building regulations is correctly applied to building works to ensure buildings incorporate good access for wheelchair users and people with mobility problems.</p> <p>Website has advice on accessibility issues in new developments, including Part M regulations.</p>	None identified.		
The needs of people with a religion or belief				
Site inspections to properties designated sacred.	Respect of religion and beliefs are taken into account in sacred places subject to due regard to Health and Safety legislation when entering sites.	None identified.		

Opportunity to promote equality and/or barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
The needs of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and heterosexual people				
None identified.	N/A	None identified.		
Issues from marriage and civil partnership				
None identified.	N/A	None identified.		
The needs of different age groups, for example older and younger people				
The needs of older people are often related to those identified for people with a disability.	See actions in relation to people with a disability.	None identified.		
The needs of transgender communities				
None identified.	N/A	None identified.		
The needs of people who are disadvantaged by socio-economic factors such as low incomes, skill or living in a deprived area				
Understanding the need for approval under the Building Regulation for building work.	Help and guidance offered in applying for Building regulation approval. Information provided on the website in an accessible format.	None identified.		
The needs of people who live in a rural area				
People may have difficulty in accessing the Oaklands office in Haywards Heath for advice on Building Regulation applications.	More interactive services have been provided and greater use of the website for providing advice and information. Forms and explanatory notes on the website including dedicated e-mail address. Phone discussions and site contact by Building Control officers are provided. Discussions on site take place regarding on-going building work.	None identified.		

3. Mid Sussex District Council Equality Impact Assessment Summary

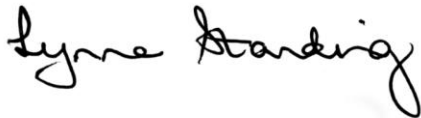
Key Findings	Future Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main equality related issues with the service concerns the accessibility of public buildings through Part M of the Building regulations. Service is already focused on providing for the needs of different types of customers, e.g. with advice provided in person and through the website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.

4. Signing off this assessment and action plan



Signature ...
Person undertaking the assessment

Date 13th November 2013



Signature
Head of Service

13 November 2013
Date

Please send your completed impact assessment to Neal Barton for publication on the website.