

APPENDIX 2

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Directorate: **Chief Executives**

Lead officer responsible for EIA: **Chief Environmental Health Officer**

Name of the policy or function to be assessed: **Charging for Food Hygiene Re-rating Inspections**

Names of the officers undertaking the assessment: **Suzanne Hickey**

Is this a new or an existing policy or function? **Existing Function – new policy to charge for part of process.**

1. What are the aims and objectives of the policy or function?

To undertake cost recovery for food hygiene re-rating inspection requests. To allow additional re-rating inspections to be undertaken.

2. What outcomes do you want to achieve from the policy or function?

To achieve cost recovery of the re-rating inspections. To offer wider flexibility in when re-rating inspections can be requested and carried out in accordance with the Brand Standard. This potentially encourages business to improve standards more quickly and assists some businesses to continue to trade on online platforms whilst further improvements are undertaken. To ensure the authority is in a better position to deal with possibly increased demand for requests if the display of the food hygiene rating is made mandatory in the future.

3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy or function?

Food Business Operators by having access to a quicker re-rating inspection and also more than one re-rating inspection if appropriate. Consumers benefit when re-rating inspections are undertaken and published.

4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy or function?

Food Business Operators. Food Business Customers. The Food Safety Service who delivers the inspections. Food Business Operators who operate across more than one local authority area.

5. What baseline quantitative data do you have about the policy or function relating to the different equality strands?

We have data on the total number of re-inspection requests made which is currently quite low at between 8 and 20 requests per year. We have requests for this service which we are not currently offering. We are aware that many authorities (including those bordering us) charge for this service so are offering a more consistent approach.

6. What baseline qualitative data do you have about the policy or function relating to the different equality strands?

There are safeguards in the scheme (National scheme) and a pilot was undertaken before the national policy changed. There is little evidence to suggest any particular equality strand will benefit or be disadvantaged more than another. There will be a small benefit in the speed which revisits are undertaken which will potentially benefit poorer performing and smaller businesses within the Borough.

7. What has stakeholder consultation, if carried out, revealed about the nature of the impact?

A pilot was undertaken before the national guidance was updated to allow local authorities to charge.

8. From the evidence available does the policy or function affect or have the potential to affect different equality groups in different ways?

In assessing whether the policy or function adversely affects any particular group or presents an opportunity for promoting equality, consider the questions below in relation to each equality group:

Does the policy or function target or exclude a specific equality group or community?

No applies to all food hygiene businesses included within the scheme.

Does it affect some equality groups or communities differently? If yes, can this be justified?

No.

Is the policy or function likely to be equally accessed by all equality groups or communities? If no, can this be justified?

Yes all customers and groups (food businesses) will get access to the information.

Are there barriers that might make access difficult or stop different equality groups or communities accessing the policy or function?

Smaller businesses may have find it harder to fund access the service but will benefit in business in trade if rating improves. It is an optional service.

Could the policy or function promote or contribute to equality and good relations between different groups? If so, how?

Not applicable

What further evidence is needed to understand the impact on equality?

None. Future review of the take up of the service can be undertaken.

9. On the basis of the analysis above, what actions, if any, will you need to take in respect of each of the equality strands?

Age: None

Disability: None

Gender: None

Gender Reassignment: None

Marriage and Civil Partnership: None

Pregnancy and Maternity: None

Race: Signposting to application forms and support will be provided as required.

Religion and Belief: None

Sexual Orientation: None

10. Head of Service:

I am satisfied with the results of this EIA. I undertake to review and monitor progress against the actions proposed in response to this impact assessment:

Signature of Head of Service: