

**APPENDIX 5****Equality Impact Assessment**

The Equality Act 2010 replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies the law, removing inconsistencies and making it easier for people to understand and comply with it. It also strengthens the law in important ways, to help tackle discrimination and equality. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

Public bodies are required in it to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The public sector Equality Duty came into force on 5 April 2011. The duty ensures that all public bodies play their part in making society fairer by tackling discrimination and providing equality of opportunity for all. It ensures that public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their day to day work – in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

The Equality Duty encourages public bodies to understand how different people will be affected by their activities so that policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. By understanding the effect of their activities on different people, and how inclusive public services can support and open up people's opportunities, public bodies are better placed to deliver policies and services that are efficient and effective.

The new equality duty replaces the three previous public sector equality duties, for race, disability and gender. The new equality duty covers the following protected characteristics:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – including lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

It also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination.

Having due regard means consciously thinking about the three aims of the equality duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by public bodies, including how they act as employers, how they develop, evaluate and review policies, how they

design, deliver and evaluate services, and how they commission and procure from others.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves considering the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, and
- encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is low.

Fostering good relations involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people who share a protected characteristic and others.

Complying with the equality duty may involve treating some people better than others, as far as this is allowed by discrimination law. For example, it may involve making use of an exception or the positive action provisions in order to provide a service in a way which is appropriate for people who share a protected characteristic.

The Equality Duty also explicitly recognises that disabled people's needs may be different from those of non-disabled people. Public bodies should therefore take account of disabled people's impairments when making decisions about policies or services. This might mean making reasonable adjustments or treating disabled people better than non-disabled people in order to meet their needs.

There is no explicit requirement to refer to the Equality Duty in recording the process of consideration but it is good practice to do so. Keeping a record of how decisions were reached will help public bodies demonstrate that they considered the aims of the Equality Duty. Keeping a record of how decisions were reached will help public bodies show how they considered the Equality Duty. Producing an Equality Impact Assessment after a decision has been reached will not achieve compliance with the Equality Duty.

It is recommended that assessments are carried out in respect of new or revised policies and that a copy of the assessment is included as an appendix to the report provided to the decision makers at the relevant Cabinet, Committee or Scrutiny meeting.

Where it is clear from initial consideration that a policy will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics, no further analysis or action is necessary.

Public bodies should take a proportionate approach when complying with the Equality Duty. In practice, this means giving greater consideration to the Equality Duty where a policy or function has the potential to have a discriminatory effect or impact on equality of opportunity, and less consideration where the potential effect

on equality is slight. The Equality Duty requires public bodies to think about people's different needs and how these can be met.

### EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Directorate:	Communications, Cultural and Civic Services	Lead officer responsible for EIA	Communication, Culture and Civic Manager
Name of the policy or function to be assessed:	Events Programme 2024-25		
Names of the officers undertaking the assessment:	Communication, Culture and Civic Manager		
Is this a new or an existing policy or function?	New		
<p><b>1. What are the aims and objectives of the policy or function?</b></p> <p><b>Aim</b> To deliver a programme of events activity which attracts a wide range of visitors from the local community and supports the aims of the Cultural Strategy 2023-26.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a diverse programme of cost-effective Council organised events for the local community to enjoy.</li> <li>2. Promote and enhance the wider cultural events and activities that take place in the Borough.</li> <li>3. Provide engagement opportunities for local groups, businesses, artists and creative practitioners to promote their work.</li> <li>4. Provide engagement opportunities to support wider objectives to support the Borough such as education, reducing anti-social behaviour, economic development and health and wellbeing.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>2. What outcomes do you want to achieve from the policy or function?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well attended, cost effective event programme.</li> <li>• Opportunities for a diverse group of people to take part in cultural events.</li> <li>• Positive impacts on education, reducing anti-social behaviour, economic development and health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy or function?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Employees</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• Partner bodies and organisations</li> <li>• Business community</li> <li>• Local groups</li> </ul>			
<p><b>4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy or function?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Town and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Departments across the Council</li> </ul>			

Directorate:	Communications, Cultural and Civic Services	Lead officer responsible for EIA	Communication, Culture and Civic Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Partner bodies and organisations</li> <li>• Local groups and forums</li> <li>• Special interest groups e.g. D.H. Lawrence society, Haggs Farm Preservation Society</li> <li>• Business community</li> <li>• Community groups and organisations</li> <li>• Potential investors</li> <li>• The media</li> <li>• Employees</li> <li>• Elected Members</li> <li>• MPs</li> <li>• Nottingham and Nottingham Trent Universities</li> <li>• Broxtowe Safety Advisory Group (SAG)</li> <li>• Arts and cultural bodies e.g. Arts Council England, UNESCO City of Literature,</li> <li>• Museums' Development East Midlands</li> <li>• Colleagues in the Council's twin town Gütersloh and other linked European cities.</li> <li>• Sports clubs</li> <li>• Community Committee</li> <li>• Environmental groups including the Green Umbrella Group</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing groups</li> <li>• Community and faith leaders</li> <li>• Arts practitioners</li> <li>• Venues</li> </ul>			
<p><b>5. What baseline quantitative data do you have about the policy or function relating to the different equality strands?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turnout figures</li> <li>• Data on the reach of promotion and advertising</li> <li>• Number of groups engaged with</li> <li>• Museum visitor figures</li> <li>• Research from Arts Council, The Cornerstones of Culture: Commission on Culture and Local Government report</li> <li>• The Museum Development England Annual Museum Survey 2022: East Midlands Report</li> </ul>			
<p><b>6. What baseline qualitative data do you have about the policy or function relating to the different equality strands?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward profiles</li> <li>• Electoral data</li> <li>• Cultural map (in progress)</li> </ul>			

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

Resident, steering group and Town Council partner feedback is utilised to make positive changes to each event within the programme.

A cultural mapping exercise is currently underway to better understand the cultural groups, organisations and events in the Borough, which when complete, will be used to undertake additional consultation and engagement work with groups when developing the event programme

**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:**

The events programme does not adversely impact on any particular group and is able to be accessed by as many different groups as is possible. The programming of activity contained within the events encourages the promotion of diversity through the inclusion of performers, artists, local charities and interest groups from diverse backgrounds and interests.

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

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

Where barriers are identified, reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that these can be removed or the impact lessened. The cultural map will further support this by providing better engagement opportunities with different groups when planning the event programme.

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

As part of the wider Cultural Strategy 2023-26, the Event Programme is designed to celebrate Broxtowe's varied cultural and heritage offer and so is a tool by which to encourage people to come together and foster good community relations.

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

Completion of cultural mapping exercise and consultation with these groups to identify the potential barriers to engagement and ways to overcome them.

**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:** Engaging with specific community groups such as lunch clubs and youth groups in this area to better understand the barriers to engagement and the types of cultural events which could be considered to provide the range of age groups with opportunities to attend.

**Disability:** Engagement and consultation on the event programme and planning of the events via the Disability Forum to identify barriers to engagement and make improvements.

**Gender:** Identifying specific groups to engage with on barriers to engagements such as women's and men's activity and support groups.

**Gender Reassignment:** Identifying specific groups to engage with on barriers to engagements.

**Marriage and Civil Partnership:** Listening and responding to feedback to ensure that this group is engaged. Proactive engagement with appropriate groups and stakeholders who have a special interest in this area.

**Pregnancy and Maternity:** Listening and responding to feedback to ensure that this group is engaged. Proactive engagement with appropriate groups and stakeholders who have a special interest in this area.

**Race:** Identifying areas in the Borough with higher populations of different ethnic groups and engaging with them on the event programme, including promotion of their own cultural events as part of the wider cultural programme and understanding their needs.

**Religion and Belief:** Identifying areas in the Borough with higher populations of different religious and belief groups and engaging with them on the event programme, including promotion of their own cultural events as part of the wider cultural programme and understanding their needs.

**Sexual Orientation:** Identifying specific groups to engage with on barriers to engagements.

**Executive Director:**

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: Executive Director**