

July 2015

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EQUALITY ANALYSIS / IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)**

**This document is available in other formats, Please contact
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Directorate:

Growth, Environment and Transport

Name of policy, procedure, project or service

Pre-application charging for sustainable drainage advice

What is being assessed?

Charging scheme for provision of service

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer

Sharon Thompson, Head of Planning Applications

Date of Initial Screening

31 October 2016

Date of Full EqIA :

N/A

Update each revised version below and in the saved document name.

Version	Author	Date	Comment
V1	B.Buntine	31/10/2016	Initial Screening
V2	A Agyepong	31/10/2016	Review
V3	B.Buntine	31/10/2016	Updated per review.

Characteristic	Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect this group less favourably than others in Kent? YES/NO If yes how?	Assessment of potential impact HIGH/MEDIUM LOW/NONE UNKNOWN		Provide details: a) Is internal action required? If yes what? b) Is further assessment required? If yes, why?	Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group? YES/NO - Explain how good practice can promote equal opportunities
		Positive	Negative	Internal action must be included in Action Plan	If yes you must provide detail
Age	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Disability	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Gender	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Gender identity	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Race	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Religion or belief	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Sexual orientation	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No
Pregnancy and maternity	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required..	No
Marriage and Civil	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment	No

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Partnerships				required.	
Carer's responsibilities	No	none	none	Any impacts would be no different to impacts on general population. No further assessment required.	No

Part 1: INITIAL SCREENING

Proportionality - Based on the answers in the above screening grid what weighting would you ascribe to this function – see Risk Matrix

Low	Medium	High
Low relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.	Medium relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a Judgement.	High relevance to equality, /likely to have adverse impact on protected groups

Low relevance as the charging schemes applies to a service which provides information for professionals and does not have implications for any delivery of or access to any services by a group with protected characteristics.

Individuals or householders who may qualify within the nine characteristics are able to access information as a free service and would not be impacted by this charging scheme.

Context

Kent County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority was made a statutory consultee within the National Planning Policy Framework on the 15 April 2015. This was passed through as a revision to the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure Order) (England) Order 2015.

This statutory role requires that KCC are consulted by the Local Planning Authorities within Kent for any Major Planning applications (as defined in Town and Country Planning Act 1990) in relation to surface water management.

As a result of the new consultee role, a number of 'potential developers' are seeking pre-application advice from the County Council on sustainable drainage matters prior to the submission of a planning application to the borough and district councils. As per other pre-application advice that KCC provides, KCC is able to charge for such advice as stated within The Local Government Act 2003 (section 93).

Aims and Objectives

With the current financial pressures on the public purse, it is proposed that the service seeks to recover its costs in the interests of being a Best Value Authority and to provide an appropriate interim charging scheme until the wider KCC review of charges can be completed in 2017.

Beneficiaries

The interim charging scheme for Sustainable Drainage advice will provide benefit to:

- Development community as it provides a clear process for requesting information on sustainable drainage matters in development;
- Technical professionals involved in developing drainage schemes as it provides a clear template on information which will be provided by and available through Kent County Council; and,
- Kent County Council will benefit as the definition of the charging scheme will reduce costs through re-covering consultations currently being subsidised through the statutory function.

Information and Data used to carry out your assessment

The interim Pre-Application Charging scheme has been based upon on the service currently offered by the Planning Applications Group.

We have assessed the pre-application consultations we undertake against our statutory consultations based upon the applications received from 15 October 2015 to 14 October 2016.

This information has demonstrated the the pre-application service would be utilised by professionals in providing submissions within the planning system as indicated in the section above.

It is unlikely to engage the public or any service users as defined within a relevant protected characteristic.

Involvement and Engagement

We have engaged internally within EPE to assess the basis of the Directorate's charging.

The proposed Charging Scheme is to be reported to Kent Developer's Group in December 2016. This engagement will raise awareness of the scheme and afford an opportunity for representatives of development industry to comment on the proposal. Any views raised will be considered by the Cabinet Member prior to implementation of the scheme.

Potential Impact

The purpose of the proposed Charging Scheme is to ensure that costs currently incurred for pre-application charges are met through cost recovery and are not subsidised by our statutory role.

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The potential impacts of the draft Charging Scheme will have no more of a significant impact on any particular group than they will on the entire population.

Adverse Impact:

The proposed Charging Scheme is unlikely to have a specific, adverse impact on any of the protected groups to any lesser or greater extent than the general population.

Positive Impact:

The proposed Charging Scheme is unlikely to have a specific, positive impact on any of the protected groups to any lesser or greater extent than the general population.

JUDGEMENT

Our judgement, following the initial screening, is that draft Charging Scheme for Sustainable Drainage Pre-application is unlikely to have any specific adverse or positive impacts upon the identified nine characteristics.

Option 1 – Screening Sufficient **YES/NO**

Following this initial screening our judgement is that no further action is required.

Justification:

The draft Charging Scheme is a service utilised by professionals within the planning system. It does not impact any delivery of service to any group with protected relevant characteristics.

Option 2 – Internal Action Required **YES/NO**

None required.

Option 3 – Full Impact Assessment **YES/NO**

None required.

Monitoring and Review

The Charging Scheme for Sustainable Drainage and the process for undertaking pre-application advice will be made available through Kent County Council's web pages.

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Sign Off

I have noted the content of the equality impact assessment and agree the actions to mitigate the adverse impact(s) that have been identified.

Senior Officer

Signed:

Name: Sharon Thompson

Job Title:

Date:

DMT Member

Signed:

Name: Barbara Cooper

Job Title: Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport

Date: 31 October 2016

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Protected Characteristic	Issues identified	Action to be taken	Expected outcomes	Owner	Timescale	Cost implications