

Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: 10 October 2011	Directorate: ASC&H	Section: B.S. Team, Older People & Long Term Conditions
1. Activity to be assessed	Reform of the Blue Badge Improvement Service	
2. What is the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing	
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Mira Haynes	
5. Who are the members of the EIA team?	Naoma Dobson, Mark Gittins and Gail Ebdon	
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>Please describe briefly its aims, objectives and main activities as relevant.</p> <p>The objectives of the Blue Badge Reform is to address current problems, especially those relating to fraud and abuse. The aim is to improve operational efficiency, reduce public sector costs and improve customer service. The Blue Badge scheme helps to support those who have mobility needs who need help to travel.</p> <p>There is currently a National Reform of Blue Badges which is being introduced by the Department for Transport from January 2012 and all local authorities have to sign up to this agreement. The cost of a blue badge has been £2:00 since 1971 but the Department for Transport have said that each local authority can charge up to £10:00 per badge, this is for 3 years and does not cover the cost of a badge if there is an assessment. The cost to Bracknell Forest just to order a blue badge will be £4:60 alone. The cost to Bracknell Forest Council for an Automatic Blue Badge will be £12:22, cost of a discretionary will be £25:77 and the cost of a blue badge with an assessment will be £51:83, please see attached staffing costs.</p> <p>Blue Badges are issued free of charge to people who have a terminal illness.</p> <p>As a result of the Reform of Blue Badges, Bracknell Forest Council will have to take on this responsibility for issuing of the blue badges and will need to increase the cost otherwise we would have to cut services elsewhere to cover the costs of issuing the blue badges.</p> <p>There are currently 2.5 million badges on issue throughout Great Britain and the number has trebled in the last 20 years and demand is forecast to increase further as the population ages.</p>	
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	Adults and Children with Mobility problems	
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential
		What evidence do you have to support this? E.g equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc

	no		for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.	Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality monitoring data
8. Disability Equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
9. Racial equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
10. Gender equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
11. Sexual orientation equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
12. Gender re-assignment	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
13. Age equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
14. Religion and belief equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Y	N ✓	The impact would be on people who are on low Incomes	
17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carer's/ex-offenders) and on promoting good community relations.	It is likely to have an adverse impact on vulnerable adults/families that are on low incomes as the cost will increase from £2:00 to £10:00.			

<p>18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?</p>	<p>The cost of a blue badge has been £2:00 since 1971 but the Department for Transport have said that each local authority can charge up to £10:00 per badge, this is for 3 years and does not cover the cost of a badge if there is an assessment. The cost to Bracknell Forest just to order a blue badge will be £4:60 alone. The cost to Bracknell Forest Council for an Automatic Blue Badge will be £12:22, cost of a discretionary will be £25:77 and the cost of a blue badge with an assessment will be £51:83, please see attached staffing costs.</p> <p>Blue Badges are issued free of charge to people who have a terminal illness.</p> <p>It can be just, even with the increase the tax payer will have to fund some of the scheme as it is not a cross neutral scheme.</p>		
<p>19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?</p>	<p>Bracknell Forest Council does not have the knowledge of peoples income levels of those who apply for a blue badge.</p>		
<p>20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N ✓</p>	<p>Please explain for each equality group</p>
<p>21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?</p>	<p>You can also view the Quality Impact assessment on the Department for Transport Website as this is a national policy and will affect all Councils within England and South Wales http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/access/blue-badge/reform-of-the-blue-badge-scheme/</p>		
<p>22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N ✓</p>	<p>Please explain your decision. If you are not proceeding to a full equality impact assessment make sure you have the evidence to justify this decision should you be challenged. If you are proceeding to a full equality impact assessment please contact Abby Thomas.</p>
<p>23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.</p>			
<p>Action</p>	<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Person Responsible</p>	<p>Milestone/Success Criteria</p>
			<p>This is not going to impact on specific groups apart from those on low incomes – some people are in employment and have considerable means.</p>
<p>24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?</p>	<p>Adult Social Care and Health</p>		

<p>25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?</p>	<p>Inform Blue Badge Holders via:- local website, local communications e.g. Town & Country, local papers etc. Presentations to local forums e.g. Carers, Older People & Long Term Condition groups, etc.</p> <p>Mira Haynes attended Access and Advisory Group on 22nd June 2011 where she presented an outline of the Reform of Blue Badges and no objections were raised.</p>
<p>26. Chief Officers signature.</p>	<p>Signature:  Date: 20 October 2011</p>
<p>27. Which PMR will this screening be reported in?</p>	

When complete please send to abby.thomas@bracknell-forest.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website.