

## Appendix 5 Declaration & Commitment Statement to Transparency Equality Analysis (EqA)

### Questionnaire

Please refer to the guidance before completing this form.

<b>1. Details of function, policy, procedure or service:</b>	
Title of what is being assessed: The Declaration and Commitment Statement to Transparency	
Is it a new or revised function, policy, procedure or service? New	
Department and Section: Information Management Team	
Date assessment completed: 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	
<b>2. Names and roles of officers completing this assessment:</b>	
Lead officer	Jenny Obee, Head of Information Management
Stakeholder groups	Residents, Businesses, Customers, Employees and Elected Members
Representative from internal stakeholders	
Representative from external stakeholders	
Delivery Unit Equalities Network rep	
Performance Management rep	
HR rep (for employment related issues)	
<b>3. Full description of function, policy, procedure or service:</b>	

Please describe the aims and objectives of the function, policy, procedure or service  
*Please include - why is it needed, what are the outcomes to be achieved, who is it aimed at? Who is likely to benefit? How have needs based on age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and carers been taken account of? Identify the ways people can find out about and benefit from the proposals. Consider any processes they need to go through or criteria that we apply to determine eligibility.*

The Declaration and Commitment Statement to Transparency is needed to embed a transparent attitude and culture throughout the council to fulfil the council’s ambitions to be an exemplary local authority to transparency.

The outcome is to make the council more accountable and providing access to our data can be empowering and beneficial to everyone regardless of race, religion etc, furthermore the council recognises the importance of diversity in stimulating creativity and innovation, the more people and organisations that use our data, the greater the social and economic benefits that will be generated. This is true for both commercial and non-commercial uses.

The published data will be made available on a dedicated portal for all to see, free to access, to use and re-use by default.

**4. How are the equality strands affected?** *Please detail the effects on each equality strand, and any mitigating action you have taken so far. Please include any relevant data. If you do not have relevant data please explain why.*

Equality Strand	Affected?	Explain how affected	What action has been taken already to mitigate this? What action do you plan to take to mitigate this?
1. Age	Yes X / No <input type="checkbox"/>	The very elderly customers may not have the technological means to directly use open data themselves, but the care services they may use or buy can be made upon informed choices based on the transparent information about the quality of their care.	Transparency is an enabler for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy goals; to improve health and health services, to promote integration of health and social care, to hold services to account and engage the public.
2. Disability	Yes X / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Our commitment to transparency is in addition to the current user accessibility in that data will be freely available in an open format for users	Information will be provided on request in required format
3. Gender reassignment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		

4. Pregnancy and maternity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
5. Race / Ethnicity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
6. Religion or belief	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
7. Gender / sex	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
8. Sexual orientation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
9. Marital Status	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		
10. Other key groups?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No X		

<p><b>5. What will be the impact of delivery of any proposals on satisfaction ratings amongst different groups of residents?</b></p>
<p>Positive, in the context that the release of open data strengthens our democratic institutions and encourages better policy–decisions to meet the needs of our residents. It will develop links to allow the public to provide feedback on the most important data they would like released.</p>
<p><b>6. How does the proposal enhance Barnet’s reputation as a good place to work and live?</b></p>
<p>By publishing information in the (intended) form that supports residents to live a full and active life in Barnet. Furthermore, freely-available data can be used in innovative ways to create useful tools and products that help people navigate modern life more easily. Used in this way, open data is a catalyst for innovation in the private sector, supporting the creation of new markets, businesses and jobs.</p>
<p><b>7. How will members of Barnet’s diverse communities feel more confident about the council and the manner in which it conducts its business?</b></p>
<p>Transparent open data is essential for accountability and providing access to our data can empower individuals, the media, civil society and businesses to fuel better outcomes in public services.</p>
<p><b>8. What measures and methods have been designed to monitor the application of the policy or service, the achievement of intended outcomes and the identification of any unintended or adverse impact? <i>Include information about the groups of people affected by this proposal. Include how frequently will the monitoring be conducted and who will be made aware of the analysis and outcomes? Include these measures in the Equality Improvement Plan (section 15)</i></b></p>
<p>The Transparency project will be compiling a publishing schedule for all the open data it publishes to ensure that post-project the data is regularly refreshed and updated. There will be further Consultation and Engagements with Barnet residents and businesses asking ‘what further information they would like to have’? Furthermore, there will be an email facility where customers can request additional open data, which would be made available for all to use and re-use.</p>
<p><b>9. How will the new proposals enable the council to promote good relations between different communities? <i>Include whether proposals bring different groups of people together, does the proposal have the potential to lead to resentment between different groups of people and how might you be able to compensate for perceptions of differential treatment or whether implications are explained.</i></b></p>

The transparent philosophy is that we believe that council data is the peoples' data and that open data is an untapped resource with huge potential to encourage the building of stronger, better connected societies that meet the needs of our residents and allows innovation and prosperity to flourish.

(Open data is non-personally identified data produced in the course of the organisation's ordinary business, which has been released under an unrestricted Open Government Licence. Open Public data is underpinned by the philosophy that data generated or collected by organisations in the public sector should belong to the taxpayers, wherever financially feasible and where releasing it won't violate any laws or rights to privacy (either for residents or government staff).

**10. How have residents with different needs been consulted on the anticipated impact of this proposal? How have any comments influenced the final proposal? Please include information about any prior consultation on the proposal been undertaken, and any dissatisfaction with it from a particular section of the community.**

A Transparency consultation and engagement survey commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and closed on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with residents and customers.

28 responses were received in total, despite being widely promoted via Barnet First, Community Barnet and via social media; such as: face-book and weekly tweets to 7000 followers, plus emailing the survey link to 900 past Citizen Panel members.

The Transparency project will be publishing the open data portal launch, followed by another consultation and engagement survey, plus an article on 'Big Data' is due to be included in Barnet First, September's edition.

## Overall Assessment

11. Overall impact		
Positive Impact  X	Negative Impact or Impact Not Known <sup>1</sup>  <input type="checkbox"/>	No Impact  <input type="checkbox"/>
12. Scale of Impact		
Positive impact:  Minimal <input type="checkbox"/> Significant X	Negative Impact or Impact Not Known  Minimal <input type="checkbox"/> Significant <input type="checkbox"/>	

13. Outcome			
No change to decision  X	Adjustment needed to decision  <input type="checkbox"/>	Continue with decision <i>(despite adverse impact / missed opportunity)</i>  <input type="checkbox"/>	If significant negative impact - Stop / rethink  <input type="checkbox"/>

14. Please give full explanation for how the overall assessment and outcome was decided
<p>Transparency us a key component for the Government’s public services reform programme to reform public services.</p> <p>A key ingredient of trust is transparency. The challenge for the council is to be transparent in a way that most usefully informs our residents, while opening up as much public data as possible for interrogation and re-use by third parties or resident auditors. By becoming more transparent and improving the range of information published by the council will have a three-fold effect for residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will increase opportunities for residents to hold us to account and improve public trust.</li> <li>• Opening up data sets for use and re-use by third parties will enable broader value for residents from the council’s data assets.</li> <li>• It will have the potential to transform the quality of the Barnet customer/resident</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> ‘Impact Not Known’ – tick this box if there is no up-to-date data or information to show the effects or outcomes of the function, policy, procedure or service on all of the equality strands.

perception of the interaction with the council.

It's a proven phenomenon that the reuse of open data is already changing peoples' lives and businesses for the better.

**15. Equality Improvement Plan**

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality Analysis (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer responsible	By when

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Authorised signature (Lead Officer)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Authorised Signature (Delivery Unit management team member)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>