

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

EqIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EqIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then create an action plan to get the best outcomes for service users and staff¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups protected from discrimination by the Equality Act 2010². They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached them.³

An EqIA needs to be started as a project starts to identify and consider possible differential impacts on people and their lives, inform project planning and, where appropriate, identify mitigating actions. A full EqIA must be completed before any decisions are made or policy agreed so that the EqIA informs that decision or policy. It is also a live document; you should review and update it along with your project plan throughout.

You should first consider whether you need to complete this full EqIA⁴.

Other key points to note:

- Full guidance notes to help you are embedded in this form – see the End Notes or hover the mouse over the numbered notes.
- Please share your EqIA with your Equalities Champion and the final/updated version at the end of the project.
- Major EqIAs should be reviewed by the relevant Head of Service.
- Examples of completed EqIAs can be found on the Equalities Hub

1. Responsibility for the EqIA

Title of proposal ⁵	Tree Policy and Planting Programme
Name and job title of completing officer	Faith Mwende - Corporate Projects Manager
Head of service area responsible	Cassie Bridger - Assistant Director - Greenspaces & Leisure Communities
Equalities Champion supporting the EqIA	Rosie Evangelou - consultation & Research Manager
Performance Management rep	N/A
HR rep (for employment related issues)	N/A
Representative (s) from external stakeholders	N/A

2. Description of proposal

Is this a: (Please tick all that apply)	
New policy /strategy / function / procedure / service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review of Policy /strategy / function / procedure / service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Saving <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
If budget saving please specify value below: £139,000	If other please specify below:
<i>Please outline in no more than 3 paragraphs⁶:</i>	
<p>The London Borough of Barnet is fortunate to have a diverse range of trees in both age and species, from the 2000-year-old, oldest tree in London at St Andrew's Churchyard¹ to over 30,000 street trees and 848 hectares of greenspace and woodland, totalling over 50,000 individual trees within the Borough. As such the Borough has a high level of canopy cover at 27%, higher than both the London and England averages. In the 2017 the borough developed the award-</p>	

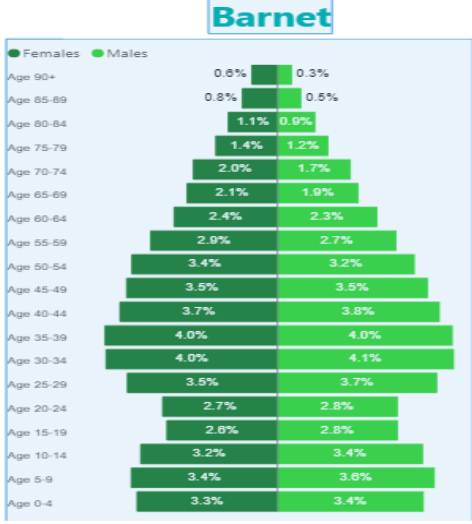
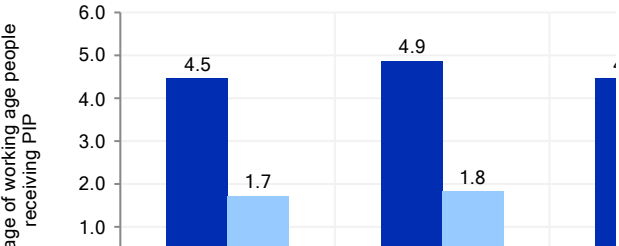
winning Tree Policy that set an ambitious target to plant 4,500 trees over five years, by 2022 (by investing in the first Borough wide Tree Planting Programme) this target had been exceeded with 5,180 trees planted.

Following the success and lessons learnt from the 2017 programme and to support the Council's priorities in relation to delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan, a new Tree Policy and planting programme has been developed. The policy document has been prepared in response to National, Regional and Local policy frameworks, it outlines how the council manages its responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to health and safety, risk management and resident concerns, whilst maintaining a healthy, diverse, and extensive tree stock. With improved data the new policy will focus on increasing the number of street trees and canopy cover across the Borough, with planting concentrated along Barnet's streets and residential areas, working toward a more sustainable urban forest, and supporting environmental improvements.

The increased tree canopy cover and tree equity will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health). This is because tree cover especially within urban areas provides a variety of ecosystem services and benefits to human health and wellbeing. In urban areas, most new trees are delivered through human intervention and by focusing on areas that would traditionally be low priority can have a significant impact on the immediate surroundings and the whole Borough. The decision-making route will be through Environment Committee on 14 March 2023.

3. Supporting evidence

What existing data informs your assessment of the impact of the proposal on protected groups of service users and/or staff?
 Identify the main sources of evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, that supports your analysis

Protected group	What does the data tell you? ^{7?} Provide a summary of any relevant demographic data about the borough's population from the <u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</u> , or data about the council's workforce	What do people tell you ^{8?} ? Provide a summary of relevant consultation and engagement including surveys and other research with stakeholders, newspaper articles correspondence etc.										
Age ⁹	 <p>Source: ONS Population Estimates, 2019</p> <p>According to the CENSUS 2021, the population of Barnet is slightly older than the London population with a greater proportion of the population aged 60 and over. Compared to England, the Barnet population is generally greater in the ages 0 to 49 (see the population pyramid above)</p>	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.										
Disability ¹⁰	 <p>Age of working age people receiving PIP</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group 1</td> <td>4.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group 2</td> <td>1.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group 3</td> <td>4.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group 4</td> <td>1.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Percentage	Group 1	4.5	Group 2	1.7	Group 3	4.9	Group 4	1.8	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.
Group	Percentage											
Group 1	4.5											
Group 2	1.7											
Group 3	4.9											
Group 4	1.8											

	From the Resident Perceptions Survey (2022) 17% of Barnet's population said they had a disability and 83% said they did not. 14% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Barnet - Local Insight 2022	
Gender reassignment¹¹	The policy and programme are unlikely to have an adverse disproportionate effect on this group.	No identified impact
Marriage and Civil Partnership¹²	47.2% of people aged 16 years or over in Barnet are married or in a registered civil partnership. The total percentage of those in an opposite-sex marriage has remained the same as the 2011 Census at 46.8%.	No identified impact
Pregnancy and Maternity¹³	There were 4,755 live births recorded in Barnet, in 2020 London Datastore	No identified impact
Race/ Ethnicity¹⁴	Barnet's local population is diverse in makeup, and between 2022 and 2030, the population of Barnet is set to become even more diverse, in relation to ethnicity. The largest ethnic group in Barnet in 2022, is recorded as being white, with those of Arabic ethnicity being the minority. Shown below: White ethnic groups 64.1% (228,553) Mixed ethnic groups 4.8% (17,169) Asian ethnic groups 18.5% (65,918) Black ethnic groups 7.7% (27,431) Arab ethnic groups 1.5% (5,210) Other ethnic groups 3.4% (12,105) - Local Insight	It has been proven that BAME Londoners are at a greater risk of being impacted by the climate crisis and other environmental issues such as air pollution (gov.uk, 2022). This policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.
Religion or belief¹⁵	The largest religious group in Barnet in 2022, is recorded as being Christian, with Sikhism being the minority. 20.2% of people in Barnet have no religion, 36.6% are Christian, 14.5% are Jewish, 12.2% are Muslim and 5.7% are Hindu. Other religion 1.1% (3,764) - Local Insight	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.

Sex¹⁶	As of 2019, Barnet's population was estimated to be 389,300 people and 48.4% were males and 51.6% were females. Therefore, there is a slightly greater proportion of females in Barnet than males.	No identified impact
Sexual Orientation¹⁷	The most recent data has not been published by the ONS yet from the 2021 CENSUS data but this EQIA will be updated when it is, see Sexual orientation and gender identity: Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) . However, it is worth noting that the policy and programme are unlikely to have an adverse disproportionate effect.	No identified impact
Other relevant groups¹⁸	None	

4. Assessing impact

What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics ¹⁹?

Protected characteristic	For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Is there an impact on service deliver? Is there an impact on customer satisfaction? Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis.	Positive impact	Negative impact		No impact
			Minor	Major	
Age	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact all age groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	We believe people with a disability may be slightly impacted as pressure for land space may lead to accessibility issues. Conflict between tree roots and the built environment may cause damage to footways. This can also lead to accessibility issues but by identifying the right areas to plant and undertaking regular maintenance and inspections these issues can be greatly mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Marriage and Civil Partnership	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race/ Ethnicity	As it has been proven that BAME Londoners are at a greater risk of being impacted by the climate crisis and other environmental issues such as air pollution, this policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact this group.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Other key groups Are there any other vulnerable groups that might be affected by the proposal? <i>These could include carers, people in receipt of care, lone parents, people with low incomes or unemployed</i>		Positive impact	Negative impact		No impact
			Minor	Major	
Key groups	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Cumulative impact²⁰

Considering what else is happening within the council and Barnet could your proposal contribute to a cumulative impact on groups with protected characteristics?

Yes No

If you clicked the Yes box, which groups with protected characteristics could be affected and what is the potential impact? Include details in the space below

We believe people with a disability made be slightly impacted as pressure for land space may lead to accessibility issue. Conflict between tree roots and the built environment may cause damage to footways. This can also lead to accessibility issues but by identifying the right areas to plant and undertaking regular maintenance and inspections these issues can be greatly mitigated

7. Actions to mitigate or remove negative impact

Only complete this section if your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. These need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Group affected	Potential negative impact	Mitigation measures ²¹ <i>If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation.</i>	Monitoring ²² <i>How will you assess whether these measures are successfully mitigating the impact?</i>	Deadline date	Lead Officer
Age and disability	Accessibility issues	The most appropriate site with the least impact will be identified, once planted the team will undertake planned maintenance on street trees on a three-year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works. The service also undertakes Common-Sense Risk Management of Trees.	The council is committed to undertaking planned maintenance on street trees on a three-year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works. This work concentrates on maintaining trees in their immediate environment with due regard to encroachment, shape, future growth of the tree and subsidence risk management.	Every 3 years	Andy Tipping - Trees & Woodlands Service Manager

8. Outcome of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)²³

Please select one of the following four outcomes

Proceed with no changes

The EqIA has not identified any potential for a disproportionate impact and all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity are being addressed

Proceed with adjustments

Adjustments are required to remove/mitigate negative impacts identified by the assessment

Negative impact but proceed anyway

This EqIA has identified negative impacts that are not possible to mitigate. However, it is still reasonable to continue with the activity. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below

Do not proceed

This EqIA has identified negative impacts that cannot be mitigated and it is not possible to continue. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below

Reasons for decision

The policy and programme have considered the needs of all groups. The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents. As a result, there is no expected negative impact on any group and the policy and programme should go ahead.

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Sign-off

9. Sign off and approval by Head of Service / Strategic lead ²⁴	
Name Cassie Bridger	Job title Assistant Director Greenspaces and Leisure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate that you have approved this EqIA	Date of approval: January 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate if EqIA has been published Date EqIA was published: Embed link to published EqIA:	Date of next review:

Footnotes: guidance for completing the EqIA template

¹ The following principles explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act when considering any new policy or change to services. They must all be met or the EqIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge:

- **Knowledge:** everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately
- **Timeliness:** the duty applies at the time of considering proposals and before a final decision is taken
- **Real Consideration:** the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and must influence the process.
- **Sufficient Information:** you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- **No delegation:** the council is responsible for ensuring that anyone who provides services on our behalf complies with the equality duty.
- **Review:** the equality duty is a continuing duty – it continues after proposals are implemented/reviewed.
- **Proper Record Keeping:** we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

² Our duties under the Equality Act 2010

The council has a legal duty under this Act to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with ‘protected characteristics’ (see end notes 9-19 for details of the nine protected characteristics). This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees.

We use this template to do this and evidence our consideration. You must give ‘due regard’ (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- **Avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact:** if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately.
- **Promote equality of opportunity:** by
 - Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people with a protected characteristic
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of these groups
 - Encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low
 - Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- **Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t:** e.g. by promoting understanding.

³ EqIAs should always be proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The size of the likely impact – e.g. the numbers of people affected and their vulnerability

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposal on a protected group (e.g. disabled people) and the more vulnerable the group is, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be. Unless they contain sensitive data – EqIAs are public documents. They are published with Cabinet papers, Panel papers and public consultations. They are available on request.

⁴ When to complete an EqIA:

- When developing a new policy, strategy, or service
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy

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- When making changes that will affect front-line services
 - When amending budgets which may affect front-line services
 - When changing the way services are funded and this may impact the quality of the service and who can access it
 - When making a decision that could have a different impact on different groups of people
 - When making staff redundant or changing their roles

Wherever possible, build the EqIA into your usual planning and review processes.

Also consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
- How vulnerable are the people who will be affected?

If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EqIA you should document your reasons why.

⁵ **Title of EqIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing.

⁶ **Focus of EqIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the proposals being assessed by the EqIA after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the proposed change?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the service or function in the proposal? Please state where this is more than one person or group, and where other organisations deliver it under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the service, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal service-users, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? E.g.: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be?
- What do existing or previous inspections of the service tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposed change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁷ **Data & Information:** Your EqIA needs to be informed by data. You should consider the following:

- What data is relevant to the impact on protected groups is available? (is there an existing EqIA?, local service data, national data, community data, similar proposal in another local authority).
- What further evidence is needed and how can you get it? (e.g. further research or engagement with the affected groups).
- What do you know from service/local data about needs, access and outcomes? Focus on each characteristic in turn.
- What might any local demographic changes or trends mean for the service or function? Also consider national data if appropriate.
- Does data/monitoring show that any policies or practices create particular problems or difficulties for any group(s)?

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- Is the service having a positive or negative effect on particular people or groups in the community?

⁸ What have people told you about the service, function, area?

- Use service user feedback, complaints, audits
- Conduct specific consultation or engagement and use the results
- Are there patterns or differences in what people from different groups tell you?
- Remember, you must consult appropriately and in an inclusive way with those likely to be affected to fulfil the equality duty.
- You can read LBB [Consultation and Engagement toolkit](#) for full advice or contact the Consultation and Research Manager, rosie.evangelou@barnet.gov.uk for further advice

⁹ **Age:** People of all ages, but consider in particular children and young people, older people and carers, looked after children and young people leaving care. Also consider working age people.

¹⁰ **Disability:** When looking at disability, consideration should be given to people with different types of impairments: physical (including mobility), learning, aural or sensory (including hearing and vision impairment), visible and non-visible impairment. Consideration should also be given to: people with HIV, people with mental health needs and people with drug and alcohol problems. People with conditions such as diabetes and cancer and some other health conditions also have protection under the Equality Act 2010.

¹¹ **Gender Reassignment:** In the Act, a transgender person is someone who proposes to, starts or has completed a process to change their gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected. Consider transgender people, transsexual people and transvestites.

¹² **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** consider married people and civil partners.

¹³ **Pregnancy and Maternity:** When looking at pregnancy and maternity, give consideration to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, part-time workers, women with caring responsibilities, women who are lone parents and parents on low incomes, women on maternity leave and 'keeping in touch' days.

¹⁴ **Race/Ethnicity:** Apart from the common ethnic groups, consideration should also be given to Traveller communities, people of other nationalities outside Britain who reside here, refugees and asylum seekers and speakers of other languages.

¹⁵ **Religion and Belief:** Religion includes any religion with a clear structure and belief system. As a minimum you should consider the most common religious groups (Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jews, Sikh, Buddhist) and people with no religion or philosophical beliefs.

¹⁶ **Sex/Gender:** Consider girls and women, boys and men, married people, civil partners, part-time workers, carers (both of children with disabilities and older cares), parents (mothers and fathers), in particular lone parents and parents on low incomes.

¹⁷ **Sexual Orientation:** The Act protects bisexual, heterosexual, gay and lesbian people.

¹⁸ **Other relevant groups:** You should consider the impact on our service users in other related areas.

¹⁹ **Impact:** Your EqIA must consider fully and properly actual and potential impacts against each protected characteristic:

- The equality duty does not stop changes, but means we must fully consider and address the anticipated impacts on people.
- Be accurate and transparent, but also realistic: don't exaggerate speculative risks and negative impacts.

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- Be detailed and specific where you can so decision-makers have a concrete sense of potential effects.
 - Questions to ask when assessing whether and how the proposals impact on service users, staff and the wider community:
 - Are one or more protected groups affected differently and/or disadvantaged? How, and to what extent?
 - Is there evidence of higher/lower uptake of a service among different groups? Which, and to what extent?
 - Does the project relate to an area with known inequalities (where national evidence or previous research is available)?
 - If there are likely to be different impacts on different groups, is that consistent with the overall objective?
 - If there is negative differential impact, how can you minimise that while taking into account your overall aims?
 - Do the effects amount to unlawful discrimination? If so the plan **must** be modified.
 - Does it relate to an area where equality objectives have been set by LBB in our [Barnet 2024 Plan](#) and our [Strategic Equality Objective](#)?

²⁰ **Cumulative Impact**

You will need to look at whether a single decision or series of decisions might have a greater negative impact on a specific group and at ways in which negative impacts across the council might be minimised or avoided.

²¹ **Mitigating actions**

- Consider mitigating actions that specifically address the impacts you've identified and show how they will remove, reduce or avoid any negative impacts
- Explain clearly what any mitigating measures are, and the extent to which you think they will reduce or remove the adverse effect
- Will you need to communicate or provide services in different ways for different groups in order to create a 'level playing field'?
- State how you can maximise any positive impacts or advance equality of opportunity.
- If you do not have sufficient equality information, state how you can fill the gaps.

²² **Monitoring:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further monitoring, equality assessment, and consultation are needed.

²³ **Outcome:**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Also explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
- Make it clear if a change is needed to the proposal itself. Is further engagement, research or monitoring needed?
- Make it clear if, as a result of the analysis, the policy/proposal should be stopped.

²⁴ **Sign off:** You will need to ensure the EqIA is signed off by your Head of Service, agree whether the EqIA will be published, and agree when the next review date for the EqIA will be.