

Uttlesford District Council

Fast-track equality impact assessment (EqIA) tool

What is this tool for?


This tool will help you to assess the impact of existing or new strategies, policies, projects, contracts or decisions on residents and staff. It will help you to deliver excellent services, by making sure that they reflect the needs of all members of the community and workforce.

What should be equality impact assessed?

You only need to equality impact assess strategies, policies, projects, contracts or decisions that are **relevant** to equality. If you are not sure whether your activity is relevant to equality take the 'relevance test' on Page 9.

How do I use the tool?




This tool is easy to use and you do not need expert knowledge to complete it. It asks you to make judgments based on evidence.




The tool uses a system of red flags  to give you an indication of whether or not your responses are identifying potential issues. Getting a red flag does not necessarily indicate a problem, but it does mean that your assessment is highlighting issues or gaps in data that may require further investigation or action.

If there is insufficient space to answer a question, please use a separate sheet.





General information		
1	Name of strategy, policy, project, contract or decision.	Report to Cabinet on Distribution Strategy for emerging Local Plan
2	What is the overall purpose of the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision?	To gain approval from Cabinet for a strategy of dispersed development reflecting the existing hierarchy of settlements as opposed to a strategy based on a new settlement.
3	Who may be affected by the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residents <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> A specific client group/s e.g. linked by geographical location, social economic factors, age, disabilities, gender, transgender, race, religion or sexual orientation (please state)
4	Responsible department and Head of Division.	Department: Planning and Building Control Head of Division: Andrew Taylor
5	Are other departments or partners involved in delivery of the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision? Building Control , Development Control , Community Services , Community Partnerships , Environmental Health , Housing , External partnerships include the PCT, Essex County Council in relation to Highways and Education. Environment Agency in relation to flood protection. Water and other utility companies. Uttlesford Futures etc	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (please state):

Gathering performance data

6	<p>Do you (or do you intend to) collect this monitoring data in relation to any of the following <u>diverse groups</u>?</p> <p>The outcome of this report will form part of a Local Plan for consultation. The following data will be collected as part of that consultation.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Age</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Disability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Gender/ Transgender</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Race</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Religion & Belief</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Sexual Orientation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Rural Isolation</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Social Economic</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other (please state)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>None </td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender/ Transgender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion & Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural Isolation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	None 
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	None 																			

7	<p>How do you (or how do you intend to) monitor the impact of the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision?</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Performance indicators or targets</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>User satisfaction</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Uptake</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Consultation or involvement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Workforce monitoring data</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Complaints</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>External verification</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Eligibility criteria</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other (please state):</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>None </td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance indicators or targets	<input type="checkbox"/>	User satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uptake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultation or involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workforce monitoring data	<input type="checkbox"/>	Complaints	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	External verification	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state):	<input type="checkbox"/>	None 
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<input type="checkbox"/>	None 																					


Analysing performance data

<p>8</p>	<p>Consider the impact the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision has already achieved, measured by the monitoring data you collect. Is the same impact being achieved for diverse groups as is being achieved across the population or workforce as a whole?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No* <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable  </p> <p><i>*Please state your evidence for this, including full document titles and dates of publication for audit purposes. Where applicable please also state the nature of any issues identified:</i></p> <p>The purpose of this document is to gain member approval of a development distribution strategy. The strategy will form part of the Local Plan for consultation which will be subject to an EqlA.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Is uptake of any services, benefits or opportunities associated with the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision generally representative of <u>diverse groups</u>?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No* <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable  </p> <p><i>*Please state your evidence for this, including full document titles and dates of publication for audit purposes. Where applicable please also state the nature of any issues identified:</i></p> <p>See comments above.</p>

Checking delivery arrangements

10 You now need to check the accessibility of your delivery arrangements against the requirements below. Click on the hyperlinks for more detailed guidance about the minimum criteria you should meet.

If assessing a proposed strategy, policy, project, contract or decision, indicate 'Yes' if you anticipate compliance by launch of implementation.


	Yes	No 	N/A
The premises for delivery are accessible to all.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation mechanisms are inclusive of all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation mechanisms are inclusive of all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered 'No' to any of the questions above please explain why giving details of any legal justification.

Checking information and communication arrangements

11 You now need to check the accessibility of your information and communication arrangements against the requirements below. Click on the hyperlink for more detailed guidance about the minimum criteria you should meet.

If assessing a proposed strategy policy, project, contract or decision, indicate 'Yes' if you anticipate compliance by launch of implementation.



	Yes	No 	N/A
Customer contact mechanisms are accessible to all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic, web-based and paper information is accessible to all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publicity campaigns are inclusive of all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images and text in documentation are representative and inclusive of all.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered 'No' to any of the questions above please explain why, giving details of any legal justification.

Future Impact


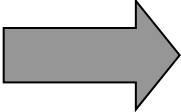


12 Think about what your strategy, policy, project, contract or decision is aiming to achieve over the long term and the ways in which it will seek to do this. This is your opportunity to take a step back and consider the practical implementation of your strategy, policy, project, contract or decision in the future. As well as checking that people from diverse groups will not be inadvertently excluded from or disadvantaged by any proposed activities, it is also an opportunity to think about how you can maximize your impact, reach as many people as possible and really make a difference to the lives of everyone in Uttlesford regardless of their background or circumstances.

Is it likely to inadvertently exclude or disadvantage any diverse groups?

- No
- Yes * 
- Insufficient evidence 

*Please state any potential issues Identified.

OVERVIEW
70,000 residents
Demographic make up according to diverse groups.

Improvement actions	
13	<p>If your assessment has highlighted any potential issues or red flags, can these be easily addressed?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No*  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable </p> <p><i>*If Yes, please describe your proposed action/s, intended impact, monitoring arrangements implementation date and lead officer:</i></p>
Making a judgement – conclusions and next steps	
14	<p>Following this fast-track assessment, please confirm the following:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no inequalities identified that cannot be easily addressed or legally justified  No further action required. Complete this form and implement any actions you identified in Q13 above </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> There is insufficient evidence to make a robust judgement.  Additional evidence gathering required (go to Q17 on Page 7 below). </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Inequalities have been identified which cannot be easily addressed.  Action planning required (go to Q18 on Page 8 below). </p>
15	<p>If you have any additional comments to make, please include here.</p> <p>The document seeks approval of a development distribution strategy which reflects the current hierarchy of settlements. It therefore seeks to direct development to a range of settlements from the towns to the villages and build balanced communities (providing for economic, retail, sporting, recreational, community facilities and places of worship as appropriate) with a mix of house types and sizes, including affordable housing, to meet all needs irrespective of gender, age, race and accessible to those who have a disability.</p>

Completion		
16	Name and job title (Assessment lead officer)	Sarah Nicholas, Senior Planning Officer
	Name/s of any assisting officers and people consulted during assessment:	Andrew Taylor; Roger Harborough
	Date:	27 April 2012
	Date of next review:	June 2012
	<i>For new strategies, policies, projects, contracts or decisions this should be one year from implementation.</i>	
<p>When completed, a copy of this form should be saved with the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision's file for audit purposes and in case it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>		

Additional evidence gathering and action planning	
17	<p>If your fast-track assessment indicated that complex issues or inequalities were identified which could not be easily addressed, or you had insufficient evidence to make a judgement, you need to undertake an additional evidence gathering and action planning process. This is described below:</p> <p>(a) Gather and analyse relevant additional evidence (which may include engagement with diverse groups), to address gaps in your knowledge, enhance understanding of the issues and inform options for addressing these. Additional evidence is likely to include any or all of the following:</p> <p>Data gathering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demographic profiles of Uttlesford ■ Data about the physical environment, e.g. housing market, workforce, employment, education and learning provision, transport, spatial planning and public spaces ■ Results of local needs analysis ■ Results of staff surveys ■ Research reports on the needs/experience of diverse groups ■ National best practice/guidance ■ Benchmarking with other organisations <p>Consultation and involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Existing consultation findings that may provide insight into the issues ■ New, specially commissioned engagement with diverse groups ■ Expert views of stakeholders/employers organisations representing diverse groups ■ Advice from experts or national organisations ■ Specialist staff/in-house expertise.

- (b) For advice on evidence gathering or engagement with diverse groups please contact your departmental equality lead officer. Discuss any proposed consultation with your departmental equality lead officer to ensure it is coordinated with related exercises across the Council as a whole.
- (c) Use your evidence gathering, analysis and engagement with diverse groups to develop options for addressing inequalities or unmet need, consulting with relevant management teams, Members, strategic groups/partners where necessary to confirm proposed actions and resource issues.
- (d) When options for addressing any issues are agreed, if these cannot be implemented immediately integrate them into the appropriate service plan/strategic plan/multi-agency strategy, so that it is clear how they will be delivered, when they will be delivered, by whom and how this will be monitored.
- (e) Identify how the continuing implementation and impact of the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision on diverse groups in Uttlesford will be monitored.
- (f) Having gathered evidence re-evaluate this assessment.
- (g) Following completion of the above, please confirm the following:

18	The conclusions and agreed proposals:
	Summary of evidence gathered, including any internal and external consultation (please include full document titles and dates of publication and consultation for audit purposes):
	Date proposals to be implemented and lead officer: June 2012 – Andrew Taylor
	Where implementation is not immediate, please state in which service plan or strategy the proposed actions will be integrated:
	Monitor arrangements (please include full details for audit purposes): Monitoring of equality questions at February 2012 and June 2012 consultations.

Additional Comments

19	If you have any additional comments to make, please include here:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None
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Completion		
20	Name and job title (Lead Officer): Name/s of other assisting officers: Date: Date of next review (if any):	
When completed, a copy of this form should be saved with the strategy, policy, project, contract or decision's file for audit purposes and in case it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.		