

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Street trading	Andrew Finch

A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity? Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

Runnymede has just one consent street in the borough that allows applications for street trading to take place, which is a small section of The Broadway, New Haw. Applications to trade at the location are rare, however following two applications in the past 12 months (which have to be considered by E&S Committee) it became apparent that pretty much any application to trade will raise objections from both SCC and Surrey Police on account of noise nuisance, litter, potential for anti-social behaviour, etc.

Following a consultation that lasted most of August there was support from SCC and Surrey Police, along with ward councillors and environmental health, to remove the consent and return The Broadway into a prohibited street, which all bar three of the roads in Runnymede operate under.

The report is a minor piece of housekeeping to continue the process of making that happen, and E&S will be asked to recommend to full council in December that The Broadway is removed as a consent street, which after the necessary notice would kick in in February 2025.

B. Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality? Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential for adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination.

The Protected Characteristics are; Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

There are no known impacts on anyone with a protected characteristic.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not engage any protected characteristics, then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities, please complete Part C.

C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion? Alternatively, if it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected of Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of ‘no relevance’ or ‘no data’ is not sufficient.

Since 2007 just six applications have been received to trade at the Broadway, New Haw, and all six have been rejected by Committee.

Date of meeting	Type of business	Outcome
7 June 2007	Fast food (burgers/kebabs)	Refused
21 January 2010	Pies, sandwiches, baguettes	Refused
17 September 2015	Thai food	Refused
19 January 2017	Kebabs	Refused
13 September 2023	Romanian street food	Refused
7 March 2024	Gourmet street food	Refused

Taking forward the removal of the location as a consent street could be considered not relevant to equality for the following reasons:

1. Focus on Regulatory Issues

The removal of street trading consent could be framed as a regulatory issue rather than an equality issue. The focus may be on ensuring public safety, maintaining order, or enforcing health standards. In such cases, authorities might argue that decisions are based on neutral factors like location, traffic control, or sanitation, which apply to all traders equally, regardless of their personal characteristics.

2. Neutral Application of Rules

If street trading consent is removed under rules that are equally applied to all potential traders, regardless of race, gender, or other protected characteristics, it may be argued that the decision does not specifically impact one group over another. The neutrality of application could be used as a rationale for why the decision is not related to equality concerns.

3. Lack of Direct Impact on Protected Groups

In some cases, authorities may not perceive a direct link between removing street trading consent and a disproportionate impact on certain equality groups (e.g., minorities, women, or disabled individuals). Based on the information we have, it is not considered that this decision will have a positive or negative impact any of the nine protected characteristics.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed:

Sign-off by senior manager: