

EQUALITY SCREENING

Appendix B

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

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Introduction of new schedule of rates for services provided by the DSO. The fees will apply where additional services are requested to support any events held within Runnymede Borough Council including community events.	Helen Clark

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?

To create a schedule of rates that deliver cost recovery for the DSO. The schedule to be used to calculate the cost of services commissioned by event organisers including community events.

The schedule of rates will reflect the true cost and allow the DSO to recover expenses relating to provision of bins, additional grass cuts, tree works etc.

A schedule of rates will ensure there is transparency and fairness within this area of service.

The continued success of all community events is a priority for Runnymede Borough Council and where the introduction of fees would impact on an event's viability the organisers can apply for grant aid which will normally be agreed where the objectives of the event are in accord with the Corporate Business Plan.

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.

The policy of charging a schedule of rates and potential grant aid plus the existing discounts available regarding halls and recycling are relevant to the protected characteristics of age, race and religion although other protected characteristics might be engaged.

- Halls associated with places of worship and places of worship
- Recycling Service for schools
- Events

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 there 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.

Community events are run by 3rd parties based in the community. They are not organised by the Council. Runnymede Borough Council cannot influence the attendees, admission policy or event pricing.

There will be grants available for all community events where the objectives are in accordance with the Corporate Business Plan. The Corporate Business Plan is itself relevant to equalities especially the strategies to empower our communities and promote health and wellbeing.

This will have a positive impact on events involving those with protected characteristics, which may be any or all depending on the event.

The schedule of rates will not commit any event organiser to a fee. Fees will be cost recovery only and only chargeable if requested by event organisers.

In mitigation for the potential impact on the protected characteristics of age, the existing school recycling service fees have not been increased.

The existing discounted rate for places of worship and halls associated with places of worship for those wishing to use larger bins mitigates the impact on them underpinned by the exemption in the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

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

Date completed: 2nd November 2022

Sign-off by senior manager: Helen Clark