

Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool

[Use this form to prompt an EIA conversation and capture the output between officers, stakeholders and interested groups. This completed form or a full EIA report will be published as part of the decision-making process]

Policy/Service under development/review:	Subsidised Charges for Pest Control Services
What changes are being made to the policy/service?	Provision of fee subsidy to BCP residents, impacting on those in the Poole area where historically subsidies were made available for those on qualifying benefits. Such subsidy was not offered to Bournemouth or Christchurch residents. .
Service Unit:	Communities
Persons present in the conversation and their role/experience in the service:	Peter Haikin, Head of Regulatory Services Jeff Morley, Regulatory Team Manager Louise Jones, Regulatory Team Manager
Conversation dates:	January- February 2021
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	Residents in the BCP Council area in receipt of income related qualifying benefits (Income Support, Guaranteed Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Universal Credit). BCP Council Customer Services Citizens' Advice
Do different groups have different needs or experiences in relation to the policy/service?	No
Will the policy or service change affect any of these service users?	Yes , A fee subsidy would enable all BCP Council residents in receipt of qualifying benefits to access significantly subsidised pest control services
[If the answer to any of the questions above is 'don't know' then you need to gather more evidence and do a full EIA. The best way to do this is to use the Capturing Evidence form]	
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	A fee subsidy would enable all BCP Council residents in receipt of qualifying benefits to access significantly subsidised pest control services
What are the negative impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	May result in BCP Council residents in receipt of benefits being unable to afford to pay for pest control treatment. May result in no treatment or self treatment which may be ineffective. Possibly resulting in health impact and/or wider scale infestation.
Will the policy or service change affect employees?	No
Will the policy or service change affect the wider community?	An untreated rodent infestation may increase in size and result in further infestation in other locations.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by the policy/service change?	Monitor the impact of the revised policy on current demand in Poole to ascertain any correlation between the number of pest control treatments provided to low income groups and reported pest infestations to Environmental Health. There is no parallel data on such treatments in Bournemouth and Christchurch which, historically, did not benefit from charging subsidies

Summary of Equality Implications:

Potentially a slight negative impact on older people, BAME community or those with a disability in Poole, whereby 100% subsidy is being replaced by 50% subsidy. To be monitored closely, although current policy permits free treatments to be provided where there is a public health impact identified by Environmental Health.

No identified negative outcome in respect of other protected characteristics : pest control services are provided irrespective and no data is held for previously provided pest control services.

For any questions on this, please contact the Policy and Performance Team by emailing performance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk