

# Equalities Impact Assessment Corporate Charging Policy

Version number	1.1 March 2015 to March 2016
Date last reviewed:	n/a new EqIA
Approved by:	
Date approved:	
Next review date:	
Saved as:	

## 1. Management of the EqIA

- a. Document owner Kevin Kenny Strategic Finance Manager
- b. Contributions from
  - i. Anne Ibezi – Strategy and Partnerships Manager

## 2. Identification of policy aims, objectives and purpose

The Council has developed an overarching Corporate Charging Policy (CCP) to set out the broad principles that apply to the determination of fees & charges by services across the Council.

Each service will apply these principles through a specific policy statement that summarises how those principles have been applied at a local level, and any exceptions to those principles.

The CCP applies to all fees & charges set by the Council, both where the Council has discretion and where they are set by statute outside the Council's control. The limits of the scope of the CCP are set out within it, but it does not cover council tax, business rates, rents, service charges, or anything similar.

The primary aim of the CCP is to enable services to set levels of fees & charges for the activities within their remit. These are submitted to Cabinet as part of the annual budget setting report. These are intended to achieve the income levels included within the budget. Each service will undertake its own assessment of the equalities impact of its own fees & charges.

## 3. Scope / focus of the EqIA

The fees & charges set by the Council will impact on a wide range of individuals, groups of individuals, and parts of the community, in differing ways. The exact impact will depend on the approach taken by each service for its own areas. This will in turn reflect the specific policy set by each service. As indicated above, each service will undertake its own impact assessment.

Any changes to fees & charges that result from measures included within the council's budget will also be subject to an appropriate impact assessment.

Protected characteristic	Assessment of relevance High, Medium, Low	Provide evidence
Class or socio-economic disadvantage	High assuming they use the services charged for	Due to the demographics of Newham many service users will be from this group.
Age	Low	Age will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Disability	Low	Disability will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Pregnancy and maternity	Low	Pregnancy and maternity will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Race	Low	Race will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Religion / belief	Low	Religion/belief will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Sex	Low	Sex will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Sexual orientation	Low	Sexual orientation will generally not be a factor in setting charges.
Transgender	Low	Transgender will generally not be a factor in setting charges.

#### 4. Relevant data, research and consultation

As set out above, the CCP sets the overall context within which each service will in turn consider and set its own fees & charges. This will take into account the impact on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (including children and vulnerable adults, and socioeconomically disadvantaged), demographic data, and any previous consultation, amongst other things. The local service impact assessment will take into account data on the individuals or groups likely to be affected.

Services will decide locally on whether they should consult formally on the fees & charges arising from their local policy, subject to whether the fees & charges are set at the Council's discretion or not and whether there is a statutory requirement to consult. The local service impact assessment will take into account whether individuals or groups might be affected differently, and whether there are any adverse or disproportionate impacts arising from the local policy and the fees & charges arising from its application.

**5. Assessment of Impact and outcomes**

As the CCP merely sets out the broad principles that apply to setting fees and charges there are no specific impacts arising from it. These will be assessed by the individual services when setting/amending their charging and will require their own EqlAs where relevant.

That said it is obvious that setting new charges or increasing existing charges will affect those on lower incomes more than those on higher incomes which is why section 3 has this as of high relevance to the socio-economic disadvantaged. Some charging will also effect some of the other specific protected characteristic groups (e.g. charges for elderly residents or children's activities). All such cases will be included in the service EqlAs as previously explained.

**6. Formal agreement**

- a. Divisional Director
- b. Head of Strategic Commissioning and Intelligence

**7. Publication of results**

- a. Date EqlA published on Council website (full or summary version)

**8. Monitoring and review**

- a. The CCP will be subject to approval by the Mayor in consultation with Cabinet. Once approved, it will be kept under annual review and will take account of responses to the local policies set by services.