



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

# Equality Impact Assessment

Preliminary assessment form v5 / 2013

[www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

The preliminary impact assessment is a quick and easy screening process. It should:

- identify those policies, projects, services, functions or strategies which require a full EIA by looking at:
  - negative, positive or no impact on any of the equality groups
  - opportunity to promote equality for the equality groups
  - data / feedback
- prioritise if and when a full EIA should be completed
- justify reasons for why a full EIA is not going to be completed

Directorate:

Chief executive

Function e.g. HR,  
IS, carers:

Strategy Unit

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy (new or old) :

Solent Combined Authority Governance Review and Scheme

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:

- Existing
- New / proposed
- Changed

**Q1 - What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?**

The Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils have been working together with Solent LEP on a proposal to set up a Mayoral Combined Authority.

A Combined Authority is created voluntarily and gives a group of local authorities extra powers from central Government, primarily to grow the local economy.

The first stage in creating a Combined Authority is to undertake a Governance Review.

Three unitary local authorities (Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council), the Solent LEP and the borough and district councils in the South Hampshire region (Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, and East Hampshire) have negotiated a draft Devolution Deal with Central Government.

As part of the process to take forward the Deal, legislation requires local areas to have formal governance arrangements in place in order for funds and powers to be devolved from Government.

The three unitary authorities (Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council) are in a position to consider the full range of options and have therefore undertaken a Governance Review.

The Governance Review:

- looks at the natural economic geography of the three authority areas;
- evaluates how governance could be improved to deliver better outcomes for local people across the key themes covered by the proposed deal.

The three authorities, having considered the governance review document and feedback from stakeholders, decided to undertake a full public consultation about the proposals. In light of the responses, the three Authorities are recommending that a submission is made to the Secretary of State asking him to set up a Mayoral Combined Authority.

**Q2 - Who is this policy, service, function, project or strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?**

The proposals do not remove the duties of the Local Authority in regard to the Equality Act 2010.

At this stage, there is no evidence of potential negative impacts or barriers identified for any of the protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010.

If the proposal for a Combined Authority is agreed by the Secretary of State, further equality impact analysis will be undertaken as appropriate, as more detailed plans emerge.

At this stage, significant opportunities for Solent area have been identified (a number of which could benefit potentially disadvantaged groups in the area).

These include:

- £900m funding for the area over 30 years to invest in economic growth and housing.
- Retaining all business rates generated in the area (approximately £400m) in exchange for the current system of government funding for local councils - meaning the area would have better control of its own financial future and be rewarded for economic growth.
- Power to create a spatial plan for the area.
- Increased productivity, more and better jobs by simplifying and strengthening support for business growth, innovation, global trade and investment.

- Control of the budget for adult education and training in the area, enabling a focus on developing the skills local businesses need.
- Development of new programmes to help claimants back into work and provide them with support.
- Delivery of new homes in the area by 2026.
- Control of a dedicated transport budget, franchised bus services and the network of key local authority maintained roads.
- Innovative and integrated approaches to public service reform.

In the light of detailed responses through the public consultation, the three Authorities changes have been made to the governance review and scheme. This scheme will also be subject to further review and refinement as the process proceeds with the Secretary of State.

**Q3 - Thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, service, function, project or strategy have a negative impact on members of the equality groups below?**

Group	Negative	Positive / no impact	Unclear
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other excluded groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the answer is "negative" or "unclear" consider doing a full EIA

**Q4 - Does, or could the policy, service, function, project or strategy help to promote equality for members of the equality groups?**

Group	Yes	No	Unclear
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other excluded groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the answer is "no" or "unclear" consider doing a full EIA

Q5 - Do you have any feedback data from the equality groups that influences, affects or shapes this policy, service, function, project or strategy?

Group	Yes	No	Unclear
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other excluded groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the answer is "no" or "unclear" consider doing a full EIA

**Q6 - Using the assessments in questions 3, 4 and 5 should a full assessment be carried out on this policy, service, function or strategy?**

yes  No

**Q7 - How have you come to this decision?**

The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

At this stage the decision sought is to publish and submit a scheme for a combined authority to the Secretary of State. Any proposed combined authority will not directly provide services to the community (as it will be a strategic body). However an equality impact (and safety) assessment has been undertaken and this shows that there will be no direct impact on those with protected characteristics. Should there be a proposed change in any actual service delivery as a consequence of the establishment of a combined authority further Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken at that time.

Consultation was undertaken on our proposals. Analysis of the consultation report showed that there was significant majority levels of support for the principles of devolution and the setting up of a mayoral combined authority. Analysis by age, gender, disability or race showed that there was no significant differences in terms of the responses compared to the overall results.

However by establishing a formal strategic body that aims to better co-ordinate the provision of services like housing and transport across the area, it is considered that this will make it easier to ensure that the concerns and issues of those with protected characteristics are taken into account when determining strategies and approaches.

If you have to complete a full EIA please contact the Equalities and diversity team if you require help  
Tel: 023 9283 4789 or email: [equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

**Q8 - Who was involved in the EIA?**

Paddy May, Corporate Strategy Manager, PCC

This EIA has been approved by: David Williams

Contact number: 023 9283 4020

**Date:**

4th October 2016

Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality and diversity team. We will contact you with any comments or queries about your preliminary EIA.

Telephone: 023 9283 4789

Email: [equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)