

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.12]



Title: Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2024-2027	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Growth and Regeneration	Lead Officer name: Dakota Ferrara
Service Area: Licensing	Lead Officer role: Senior Licensing Officer

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

Bristol City Council (The Council) is the 'Licensing Authority' for all licensable activities under Licensing Act 2003 within Bristol. Licensable activities are:

- The sale of alcohol by retail
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club
- The provision of regulated entertainment
- The provision of late night refreshment

The Licensing Act 2003 (The Act) is prescriptive with regard to how policy should be formulated and guidance is provided by the Secretary of State for local authorities to use when developing licensing policies.

The Council's current policy includes reference to a City Centre Cumulative Impact Area. The Policing and Crime Act 2017, with effect from 6 April 2018, introduced cumulative impact policies into law so that they now have a legal footing.

The Licensing Act 2003 now states a licensing authority may publish a document (a Cumulative Impact Assessment) stating that it considers that the number of premises licences or club premises certificates is at such a level that it would be inconsistent with the promotion of the licensing objectives to grant any further licences or certificates in that area and restrict changes to licensable activities of existing licences.

A Cumulative Impact Assessment must set out the evidence for the authority's opinion and before publishing the assessment the authority must consult with those affected, including the public, businesses and responsible authorities. The assessment must be reviewed every three years.

A Cumulative Impact Assessment is a discretionary policy, and the Council does not have to adopt one. The proposed consultation is to see whether there is evidence that a Cumulative Impact Area is required in Bristol. The current Cumulative Impact Area covers just the City Centre, once the consultation is complete members of the working group will assess whether there is evidence that a Cumulative Impact Area is required within the City Boundary, or whether there is insufficient evidence for this to be adopted.

The current Cumulative Impact Assessment was implemented following evidence produced by Avon and Somerset Constabulary to support their request that the central area of Bristol be designated a CIA. The premises affected by the existing Cumulative Impact Assessment are those that primarily sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, other late night uses, restaurants and take away outlets. The main focus of the assessment is likely to be on alcohol led establishments and premises that keep customers in the area at times when the promotion of the licensing objectives is most challenging (for example late night refreshment from "fast food" outlets)

The effect of adopting a policy of this kind is to create a rebuttable presumption if relevant representations to that effect are received, that applications for new premises authorisations or club premises certificates or material variations will normally be refused, unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the premises involved will be unlikely to add to the cumulative impact already being experienced. What constitutes a material variation will depend upon the policy in place and the reasons for the area being designated as suitable for adoption of a special policy.

The publication of a Cumulative Impact Assessment can be determined by the Council's Licensing Committee.

The proposed consultation will seek comments as to whether the current cumulative impact assessment should be retained, changed or withdrawn.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	
Additional comments:		

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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There is a statutory requirement for consultation which must take place prior to any policy change or implementation, this requires us to consult with the following

the chief officer of police for the licensing authority's area,
the fire and rescue authority that area,
The Local Health Board
Public Health
representative of holders of premises licences issued by that authority,
representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority
representative of holders of personal licences issued by that authority, and
representative of businesses and residents in its area.


We are following government best practice and are consulting for twelve weeks.

The Licensing Authority is not permitted to form an opinion in advance of consultation in respect of an existing Cumulative Impact Assessment. The consultation will inform the Council's opinion on whether to keep, change or withdraw a Cumulative Impact Area. We therefore do not consider that there is any equality impact at the consultation stage of the process.

Alternative versions of the survey such as paper, large print etc will be available on request by emailing consultation@bristol.gov.uk or by calling 0117 922 2848.

Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) before requesting sign off from your Director¹.

Equality and Inclusion Team Review: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	Director Sign-Off:  Patsy Mellor, Director Management of Place
Date: 29.06.2023	Date: 29/06/2023

¹ Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.