

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Walsall Borough Bonfire Night Events		
Directorate	Clean and Green		
Service	Healthy Spaces		
Responsible Officer	Jaki Brunton-Douglas		
Proposal planning start	16/03/2022	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	04/11/2022

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy		
	Procedure		
	Guidance		
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	Yes	
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	No	
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	To provide the public with borough-wide bonfire night celebratory events and a firework event to celebrate Diwali.		
	<p>In previous years, the events have been provided at four locations, one of which, Holland Park, was quite small, not well suited for the type of event and attendances have always been quite low. The proposal is to remove the Holland Park and possibly the Willenhall event as well, leaving events taking place at Walsall Arboretum (central location – well connected) and King George V Playing Fields. Also to operate a further event at Walsall Arboretum, which has much greater capacity, a designated events space and good transport links. The additional event will celebrate Diwali – a festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs.</p>		
3	Who is the proposal likely to affect?		
	People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
	All	Y	The removal of the Holland Park / and possible Willenhall bonfire event(s) will mean people from this locality will have to travel to one of the three identified locations. The arboretum being the closest and most accessible by public transport.
	Specific group/s	Y	
	Council employees		
	Other (identify)		
			The addition of the Diwali celebratory event, means a whole section of the Walsall community has a major organised event to attend, it is hoped that this will reduce localised events on the evening of Diwali and be safer for those involved.



4	Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics. No detailed information has been recorded about attendees, however, the events are openly accessible to everyone.
5	Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation). No direct consultation has taken place with the public, however, in the summary of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 February 2020, 'Members also noted that that many communities suffered with firework nuisance outside of the agreed times and recognised the fact that the events provide more than just monetary value as they represent a chance to bring communities together.'

Consultation Activity			
No consultation has taken place to date, however, a future consultation on the preferred option could be considered.			
Type of engagement/consultation		Date	
Who attended/participated?			
Protected characteristics of participants			
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
6	Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation		
	N/A		
7	How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.		
	Characteristic	Affect	Reason
			Action needed Yes / No
	Age	<p>Bonfire night events are accessible to everyone. There are some people, including for example those with autism (affected by light and sound) and / or PTSD who may be adversely affected by fireworks. It is hoped that by having organised events, this reduces the number of private events in local communities, thus having a positive impact upon those affected.</p> <p>The Diwali event will have a positive impact upon those who celebrate the event as part of their religious beliefs, however, the event will be open to everyone and, as with the bonfire night celebrations, it is hoped that having an organised event will reduce the number of private localised events.</p> <p>Option A – No events – could result in more localised events adversely affecting people Option B,C and F – all have events over one weekend at a single location. Minimal impact time wise, and by providing organised events it is hoped this will reduce localised back garden events. Options D and E – Single events in different communities over bonfire weekend plus the Diwali event supporting diversity.</p>	
	Disability		
	Gender reassignment		
	Marriage and civil partnership		
	Pregnancy and maternity		
	Race		
	Religion or belief		
	Sex		
	Sexual orientation		
	Other (give detail)		
	Further information		
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.		(Delete one) No

9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
	A	No major change required
	B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality The removal of one bonfire event and the addition of a Diwali event better promotes equality for Walsall's diverse communities.
	C	Continue despite possible adverse impact Although people with certain disabilities may be adversely affected by firework events, for the reasons identified above, it is believed that ultimately having organised events will reduce the negative impact upon these communities.
D	Stop and rethink your proposal N/A	

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
Post 6/11/22	Evaluation of Events	Healthy Spaces Team		
The officers managing the event will undertake an evaluation and the information will be used to inform planning for future events.				

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail
28/01/2022	Proposed changes being considered at Cabinet 16/03/2022
Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.	

Contact us

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Inside Walsall: [http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service information/Equality and diversity](http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity)