

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Reviewing The Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Grant Bids Against Local Priorities
Directorate	Corporate Resources
Service Area	European And International Affairs
Type	New/Proposed Function
EA Summary	The Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) grant (part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)) is available to run projects that will improve energy efficiency and provide environmental enhancements linked to projects that support the introduction of the HS2 rail line to the area. Intermediate Body Status has been granted to the Council by DCLG to select projects (that have already been appraised by DCLG) to assess how they align with Council priorities. This EA will assess the potential impacts of the Council's role in this process. The role of DCLG in this process is to put out a call for applications for the SUD grant, review and appraise the bids, get a view from Birmingham City Council and award the grant to successful bidders. The role of Birmingham City Council is to review the appraised bids from DCLG and advise and make recommendations about which bids are the best strategic fit against local priorities. It is not to assess the equality criteria. However, details regarding any equalities related controls within the wider process have been provided where appropriate, for information. It should be noted that these remain the responsibility of DCLG.
Reference Number	EA001594
Task Group Manager	sukki.dhaliwal@birmingham.gov.uk
Task Group Member	
Date Approved	2017-01-06 00:00:00 +0000
Senior Officer	lloyd.broad@birmingham.gov.uk
Quality Control Officer	cstqualitycontrolegc@birmingham.gov.uk

Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Function.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Function and expected outcomes?

The Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) grant (part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)) is available to projects that will improve energy efficiency and provide environmental enhancements linked to projects that support the introduction of the HS2 rail line to the area. Intermediate Body Status has been granted to the Council by DCLG to review projects (that have already been appraised by DCLG) to assess how they align with Council priorities. It is expected that outcomes will include improved low carbon energy efficiency and enhanced environmental bio-diversity projects, that are aligned to Council priorities. The role of DCLG in this process is to put out a call for applications for the SUD grant, review and appraise the bids, get a view from Birmingham City Council and award the grant to successful bidders. The role of Birmingham City Council is to review the appraised bids from DCLG and advise and make recommendations about which bids are the best strategic fit against local priorities. It is not to assess the equality criteria. However, details regarding any equalities related controls within the wider process have been provided where appropriate, for information. It should be noted that these remain the responsibility of DCLG.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children A Great City To Grow Up In	No
Health - A Great City To Grow Old In	Yes
Housing - A Great City To Live In	No
Jobs And Skills - A Great City To Succeed In	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Not Relevant	No
Disability	Not Relevant	No
Gender	Not Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Not Relevant	No
Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not Relevant	No
Race	Not Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Not Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Not Relevant	No

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

1. Assessment conclusion

A full assessment is not required for the following reasons:

- . assessing equality impact (above this assessment) is not within the scope of the roles and responsibilities of Birmingham City Council,
- . risks to protected characteristics are likely to be low,
- . the process incorporates a systematic way of assessing equality impact as part of the application process,
- . equality impact will be routinely considered and assessed on a case by case basis by the bidders,
- . equality impact will be routinely reviewed by DCLG.

The role of DCLG in this process is to put out a call for applications for the SUD grant, review and appraise the bids, get a view from Birmingham City Council and award the grant to successful bidders. The role of Birmingham City Council is to review the appraised bids from DCLG and advise and make recommendations about which bids are the best strategic fit against local priorities. It is not to assess the equality criteria.

2. Background to Wider Process

The programme of grant will be run on a competitive basis. The process to be followed is the same as that currently used for EU projects, which is that the national Managing Authorities (DCLG) call for applications against core EU eligibility, the call is published on a national website: <https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds>. Organisations then apply against these published calls. DCLG review the bids and present an appraisal for BCC to review for strategic fit against local priorities. The application form can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-outline-application>.

3. Equalities Questions and Assessing Impact in the Wider Process

Section 11.2 of the form asks about equalities issues specifically and there are other sections where this is addressed, such as the applicant details and their policies to ensure both they and their project take full account of equalities issues. E.g.:

"11.2 Equality and Diversity

- What will the project do to promote equality between men and women?
- What will the project do to promote equality and prevent discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation?
- What will be done to ensure people with disabilities can access the project?"

The applicants who apply will be the ones who will have to declare how their proposals have any equality impact, they will then be assessed as part of the application process by DCLG.

In general the grant is targeted at low carbon energy and transportation impact/improvements and environmental enhancements, as such it will not have many direct impacts in equality terms other than a neutral impact. The community in general will benefit from advances in low carbon impacts and improved environment. Some stakeholders will be affected but only to the level of being able to access EU grants to further their aims around the introduction of HS2. As previously mentioned any additional impacts and mitigations should be considered and captured during the application process and managed by DCLG. The process is an open and transparent one, open to all applicants and actively guards against discrimination.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

A full assessment is not required. Please see section 2.4 for more details.

4 Review Date

31/07/17

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.