

Equality impact assessment

E641702699

Date assessment completed 27 Aug 2024

Title of equality impact assessment Pavement Licensing Procedure

Service Communities and Environment

Team Licensing

Focus / aim of equality impact assessment

Permit street furniture to be placed on the pavement for the consumption of food and drink

Names and roles of officers completing the assessment

Adam Sherwood, Premises and Taxi Licensing Manager

Contact telephone number of lead officer 01279446010

Policy / service / function details

This is a review policy/service/function

What is the purpose of the policy / service / function?

Use of furniture for the consumption of food and drink to be placed on the pavement adjacent to the premises responsible for the licence.

Who are the key stakeholders?

Harlow Licensing Team, potential business owners who may want a pavement licence, members of the public, landowners.

Are there any other documents / strategies linked to this policy / service / function?

Corporate Plan - create thriving neighbourhoods, support businesses.

Who is affected by the policy / service / function?

The main beneficiaries are licence holders and members of the public using their furniture/services.

Who has been involved in the development of the policy / service / function?

Central government set new legislation under Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 by making permanent the provisions set out in the Business and Planning Act 2020. Licensing Team, Essex County Council Highways.

Which staff carry out the policy / service / function?

Licensing Team

Quantitative and qualitative data

Quantitative

Quantitative Research is used to quantify the problem by way of generating numerical data or data that can be transformed into usable statistics. It is used to quantify attitudes, opinions, behaviours, and other defined variables – and generalise results from a larger sample population.

What quantitative (numerical) data do you already have about those who use or will use the policy / service / function?

Currently we have 2 pavement licences issued. Also have 3 tables and chairs licences under the Highways Act 1980.

What gaps are there in the quantitative data?

None specific

What other quantitative data do you need?

None specific

Qualitative

Qualitative research is a process of naturalistic inquiry that seeks an in-depth understanding of social phenomena within their natural setting. It focuses on the "why" rather than the "what" of social phenomena and relies on the direct experiences of human beings as meaning-making agents in their everyday lives.

What qualitative data do you already have about those who use or will use the policy / service / function?

Only one complaint in 4 years concerning tidying away of furniture outside of hours permitted - advice letter issued, normal service was resumed. Initial regulations including mandatory conditions for smoke-free areas and no obstruction of the footway already set under the Business and Panning Act 2020, the new Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 looks to make the regime permanent.

What gaps are there in the qualitative data?

None specific

What other qualitative data do you need?

None specific

Consultation

Number of formal or informal consultation that have taken place or that you are planning to hold to inform your Equality impact assessment 0

Protected characteristic groups from the Equality Act 2010

Assessment of Impact – Based on the data you have analysed and provided, and the results of the consultation or research you have undertaken, list below how the policy or function will or does work for each of the following equalities groups.

Protected characteristic groups from the Equality Act 2010 - Age, Disability, Pregnancy and maternity

What do you know?

Placement of furniture on the pavement may cause obstruction by a need to go around pavement licence area.

What do people tell you?

None specific.

What does this mean?

Potential difficulty in movement across pavement areas.

What can you do?

The Business and Planning Act 2020 set two national conditions to be attached to all licences. The 'no-obstruction' condition requires minimum distance remains on the highway to allow for wheelchairs, mobility scooters etc., suitable barriers/planters to be used to mark seating area/contain street furniture and the positioning of furniture should not discourage pedestrians from using the footway.

Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations

Appropriate steps are included in the Business and Planning Act 2020 to meet requirements for the mix of users of the footway/pavement. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 makes permanent these provisions. Additionally, the Pavement Procedure lists a number of standard conditions to ensure any furniture is positioned safely and with the consideration of others in mind.

Action plan

Number of action plans 0

Project Manager

Project Manager Adam Sherwood

Date 27 Aug 2024

Assistant Director Tanusha Waters

Date 27/08/2024