# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - INITIAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (IST)

Initial screening needs to take place for all new/revised Council policies. The word 'policy', in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an EIA for this activity.

Name of Policy:	Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy 2023
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Senior Environmental Health Officer
Department:	Environmental Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Environmental Services Manager
<u> </u>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Date Initial Screening Completed:	

(a) What is the policy trying to achieve? i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

East Cambridgeshire District Council authorises officers to carry out statutory functions for the regulation of various environmental crime offences. Officers enforce legislation under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Environment Act 1995, the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Clean Air Act 1993 and all associated regulations under these Acts.

The Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy supports good practice and clearly sets out the Council's approach to enforcement to provide consistency and transparency. It is designed to deal effectively with aspects of poor environmental practice that has a detrimental impact on the District and on persons living and working here, and to target the more serious problems in order to improve the natural environment for everyone.

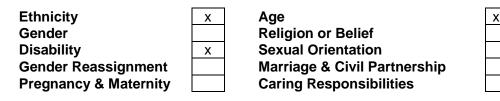
The updated Policy is being submitted to the Operational Services Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### (b) Who are its main beneficiaries? i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

Businesses, residents and visitors.

(c) Is this assessment informed by any information or background data? i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

The Council must conform to statutory functions. A recent audit of all enforcement functions of the council identified the requirement to ensure policies remained up to date. The previous environmental crime enforcement policy was dated 2018. (d) Does this policy have the potential to cause a positive or negative impact on different groups in the community, on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics (please tick all that apply):



**Please explain any impact identified:** i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers to accessing the policy or service?

This is an updated document.

### Age

An authorised officer will need to evaluate cases and deal with these especially sensitively where necessary. Officers will also use the policy and feed into other appropriate groups where necessary i.e. Age UK to ensure the individual is fully supported.

## Disability

These cases again will need to be evaluated appropriately.

For example, where a person with a disability is invited to attend a recorded interview under the rules of PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984), they may need special support or, need to have the interview conducted at other premises and not the Council Offices.

### Ethnicity

Where English is not be the first language of the individual, translation services may be required and can be provided. Letters etc. can also be provided in the appropriate language where necessary.

(e) Does the policy affect service users or the wider community?	NO
(f) Does the policy have a significant effect on how services are delivered?	NO
(g) Will it have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	NO
(h) Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?	NO
(i) Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities, e.g. disabled people's access to public transport etc?	NO

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment (EIA). If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:	Koron Soc	0.08.2022
Completing Officer:	Karen See	9.08.2023 Date:
Head of Service:	Liz Knox	Date: 15.08.23
	2	November 2013