

Equality Impact Assessment



Assessment Of: Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025	
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Place	Assessment carried out by: Louisa Brinton
Service Area: Strategy and Partnership	Job Role: Economic Development Officer – Town Centres
Date of Sign Off by Director: 16/5/2025	Neil Blaney

Step 1: What do we want to do?

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 Policy Officer early for advice.

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.

To agree the principles for developing and implementing the Teignbridge projects proposal for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025-26 Investment Plans.

The REPF is a one-year government capital fund of approximately £195,000.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund supports businesses and provision of community infrastructure which provides essential services and assets for local people and businesses. The primary goal is to build 'pride in place' and improve living standards in Teignbridge. Underneath this goal there are the two investment priorities: Communities and place and supporting local business.

The primary goal of this transitional fund is, 'to provide capital projects for businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas'.

There is the potential for positive impacts on equality and inclusion, these will be considered through the application process.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community	<input type="checkbox"/> Teignbridge workforce
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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 your manager.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

[please select]

The aim is to enhance the quality of life in rural local communities through the funding of several chosen projects that meet the identified themes. We are keen to support the rural circular economy. Providing opportunities for all rural residents and businesses, whatever their status. Until the applications are received it will not be possible to assess the equalities impact.

Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics (listed in 2.2).

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data - from national research, local data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there are any over or under representation of equality groups within your service - don't forget to benchmark to local population where appropriate.

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected team(s) using available evidence such as the employee profile data. Identify any under/over-representation for age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. Please see: [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Data / Evidence Source [Include a reference where known]	Summary of what this tells us
Census Data	Consideration of demographics.
Data on impact of previous projects.	We supported improved accessibility to two active travel routes making it easier for the less abled, pushchair/pram users, walkers and cyclists to better access more rural parts of the district. Two community buses were purchased and introduced new routes, these will provide much needed support for all residents in rural communities to access work and leisure.
Additional comments:	

2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Race
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don't have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn't mean that you can't complete the assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps please state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant information on characteristics may need to be sought from HR (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require action to address and identify the information needed.

None identified currently. The evidence base will be expanded once the projects have been identified.

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this has been of Teignbridge's diverse communities.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to HR for advice on how to consult and engage with employees. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups, trades unions as well as affected staff.

This is transitional scheme and throughout the delivery period, we have communicated with councillors and MP's. We have kept the parameters as broad as possible to ensure that we best meet needs across the district.

Projects in the latest phase have been influenced by engagement with stakeholders throughout phase one.

The opportunity to submit an application will be widely publicised.

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Consultation Officer for help in targeting particular groups.

The stakeholder Board was created to inform the design of the relevant projects originally.

An oversight of group of Teignbridge District Councillors was established to oversee project design and delivery. This will continue for REPF 2025-26

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many groups)	
The project has the potential to positively impact a number of protected characteristics.	
The previous funding round delivered 2 accessible community buses and active travel route improvements. The 2025-26 funding scope has been kept as broad as possible, to ensure that the fund best meets the needs of recipients and users, whilst supporting the rural circular economy and local amenity provision. Successful grant applicants will need to deliver on at least one of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Green & blue spaces created/improvedii. Amenities & facilities created/improvediii. Footpaths/cycle path created/improvediv. Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improvedv. Energy efficiency improvements	
We are unable to identify any adverse impacts and we hope to work with all elements of our rural communities.	
The impact on different protected characteristics will be considered at application stage.	
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Age: Young People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	

OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS

Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	
Other group(s) Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Rural/Urban Communities, Homelessness, Digital Exclusion, Access To Transport	
Potential impacts:	Increased opportunity for involvement, district wide environment benefit
Mitigations:	

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

The proposal will benefit those who live and work in rural communities. The application form will ask applicants to explain how their project will contribute to the equality objectives of the Council.

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This content should be used as a summary in reports, where this full assessment is included as an appendix.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary and appropriate despite this.

Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:

Based on learning to date, the scope of the project has been kept as broad as possible to ensure the funds will positively impact those living and working in rural locations.

Applications will be assessed on a scoring matrix basis, with weightings provided for schemes which will have positive impacts, including for those with protected characteristics.

Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:

The fund can only have a positive impact on the lives of those living and working in rural Teignbridge by improving amenities, accessibility and projects which support the rural circular economy.

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
We will encourage businesses to implement diversity friendly practices especially where there are receiving business support from Teignbridge District Council	Allie Clark	Ongoing
Include Equalities Impact as part of the application process.	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025
Consider Equalities Impacts as one of the factors as part of the scoring process, including consideration of mitigation of any negative impacts.	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025
Application process to be advertised widely, including with Teignbridge CVS	Louisa Brinton	Spring/Summer 2025

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective and your approach is still appropriate. Include the timescale for review in your action plan above.

We will review this plan to ensure compliance.

We will measure outputs and outcomes against targets.
We will report to Councill Members, MP's and Stakeholders.

4.4 Is there an opportunity to promote positive attitudes and good relations between different groups and communities?

Yes, flexibility has been designed into the fund and with grant applications being assessed on a scoring matrix basis, there is much opportunity to promote positive attitudes and good relations between different groups and communities.

The programme will also look to promote any learning to enable a wider community benefit.

Step 5: Review & Sign-Off

EIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek review and feedback from management before requesting it to be signed off. All working drafts of EIAs and final signed-off EIAs should be saved in G:\GLOBAL\EIA. Once signed-off please add the details to the 'EIA Register' of all council EIAs saved in the same directory.

Reviewed by Service Manager: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Instead was reviewed by: Alex Lessware, Delivery and Economy Manager	Strategic Leadership Team Sign-Off: Neil Blaney
Date: 14.5.25	Date: 16/5/2025