



Initial Equality Impact Screening Assessment

Notes for completion: **delete** the **help text** within the white boxes, and add the relevant information as free text to answer the questions

1.0 Part A: Overview				
Name of service, policy, strategy, procedure, or function:	Blue Badge Fraud			
Directorate:	Adult Social Care			
Is this a new, existing, or revised function?	Existing			
Audit Trail	Authors	Lorraine Weaver		
	EIA Screening start date	05/02/2025	Last modified / EIA Screening end date	05/02/2025

2.0 Part B: Background and Context	
What change is being assessed in this EIA?	<p>Blue Badge Scheme to include the Blue Badge Fraud Initiative.</p> <p>You should briefly summarise (a) why you are completing the FTA including reference as necessary to any relevant statutory duty, strategy, plan or policy of Dudley MBC or partner organisations; (b) any related decision processes and timelines; and (c) what is changing, i.e. is the function being reviewed, enhanced, reduced or discontinued?</p>

<p>In terms of Equality, what do you already know about this change?</p>	<p>A full Impact Equality Assessment was undertaken for the 2019 Blue Badge Digital transformation.</p> <p>What equality monitoring data for the protected characteristic groups is known? Is this consistent with Census or other demographic data / population profiles? Is data available from strategic needs frameworks, research or other published documents?</p>
<p>What equality outcomes are wanted from this?</p>	<p>Blue badge enforcement means that the disabled community, with a legitimate blue badge will be able to park where they need to, which will reduce isolation and the frustration of not being able to do simple tasks like shopping and meeting friends in the community. Providing stronger and safer communities, promoting independence, and keeping people well. The improper use of a Blue Badge is an offence under both s21(4B) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.</p> <p>Does the change remove or minimise any barriers that may be experienced by protected characteristic groups as a result? What specific changes to the delivery model or operational aspects of the function – such as eligibility, fees, opening times, locations, accessibility, staffing etc – are relevant?</p>
<p>Are any other departments or partners involved in the delivery of the function? How are they being involved in this assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Fraud Manager • Legal Services • Blue Badge Fraud Investigations (BBFI) – External stakeholder <p>The corporate Fraud Manager has provided support and advice in the development of the council’s approach, policy making and deployment of the enforcement scheme.</p> <p>Prosecutions by the council’s legal team are usually undertaken using the fast-track Single Justice Procedure and it is important to note that the council has a 100% prosecution success rate in this area.</p>

	<p>As part of the process of reducing misuse and identifying fraud BBFI collect data on blue badges used in Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and profile the badge use, times/ days/ weekends/ location. BBFI will analyse badges to find out if the person to whom the badge was issued is infirm/ in a home, deceased or lives in the local area. If BBFI are discovering patterns of abuse or find lost or stolen badges, BBFI build a case and take remedial action. BBFI make efforts to reduce the abuse of the privileges allowed to disabled people. BBFI address the use of lost and stolen badges and conduct investigations to identify people using badges where the disabled person is in a different location.</p> <p>BBFI prepare cases for prosecution, hand the cases which will contain a ‘referral for criminal prosecution,’ ‘cost schedule,’ ‘exhibits’ and ‘witness statements’ as required by the case to the Council lead officer in accordance with the Prosecution Policy.</p> <p>Primarily, BBFI investigate five types of offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Misuse of a parking card for people with disabilities, ○ Use of a fake badge ○ Use of a stolen badge ○ Manufacture of a fake badge ○ Failure to provide a badge for inspection
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3.0 Part C: Assessment

<p>What key information, results of consultation or data have you collected and used to inform this assessment?</p>	<p>From an enforcement perspective The Department for Transport (DfT) report that the demand for Badges has increased significantly – trebling in the last 20 years - and we estimate there could be 650,000 additional Badge holders over the next 10 years.</p>
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	<p>Although the scheme began as a way of improving access for disabled people, the substantial monetary value of a Badge in some areas is contributing to both increasing demand and the incentive to abuse the scheme and commit fraud. The misuse of Blue Badges undermines the benefits of the scheme, impacts upon local traffic management, and creates hostility amongst other badge holders and members of the public.</p> <p>Describe what processes have been used to engage with or obtain the information you have about the target groups covered by the function – consultations, other stakeholder engagement (exhibitions, briefings, workshops, user surveys / panels), communication by direct mail / email, social media, press releases etc.</p> <p>If no information is known or being collected, state if this is planned or alternatively why you feel it is not necessary to obtain it.</p>
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What does your information tell you about the impact of your function on different groups of people?

Are there any specific differences (positive or negative) between their experiences of this function?

The council has a duty to eliminate discrimination/harassment and victimisation, as well as duties to promote equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between groups of people. In assessing the effects of your function on different groups of people, you should think about how your function achieves these three aims.

	Are any of these positive impacts? How could you better promote equality? How could you improve relations between groups of people? Note: If any actions are identified insert these into Part D	Are any of these negative impacts? How can you reduce/eliminate these? Note: If any negative impacts are identified put actions to address these in Part D	What evidence specific to this group has informed this assessment? How have you used this to identify potential impacts?
*Age		There is additional impact on age, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022

			The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
Carers	While this is not at present a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, Dudley MBC recognises care experience as liable to similar discrimination, stigma and prejudice as those covered by the Act.	There is no additional impact on Carers	
*Disability		There is no additional impact on Disability	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Gender Reassignment		There is no additional impact on gender reassignment	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Marriage/ civil partnership		There is no additional impact on marriage/civil partnership	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Pregnancy/ Maternity		There is no additional impact on Pregnancy/Maternity	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Race/ ethnicity		There is no additional impact on Race/ethnicity.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme

*Religion/ belief/ faith		There is no additional impact on Religion/belief/faith, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Sex/ Gender		There is no additional impact on Sex/Gender, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
*Sexual orientation		There is no additional impact on sexual orientation, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	. The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
Socio-economic disadvantage		There is no additional impact on Socio-economic, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
Care Experienced people		There is no additional impact on Care experienced people, other than that highlighted in all characteristics.	The Department for Transport Local Authority Guidance (England) May 2022 The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the scheme
Other – please specify	This could traveller communities, asylum seekers and refugees, health inequalities, low-income groups or households, other deprived or disadvantaged communities.		

Section 4.0 & 5.0 are available when completing a full EIA (if requested to do so by the EDI team).




6.0 Part D: Conclusions

On the basis of the sections above is a full equality impact assessment required?
Provide a justification for your answer.

If no, list any actions identified. If yes, what priority do you assign to the EIA (high, medium, low) and why?

7.0 Part E: Summary and sign-off

<p>Please indicate which of the following best describes the outcome of your screener EIA:</p>	<p>Please mark all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only negative impacts have been identified</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No different impacts have been identified</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A mixture of positive and negative different impacts has been identified</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only positive different impacts have been identified</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There wasn't enough information to be able to reach a conclusion at this point in time</p>
<p>Sign-off</p>	<p>I am satisfied that the outcome described above is proportionate in relation to any impacts and associated actions or mitigations identified by this assessment.</p> <p>Lead Officer: <u>Lorraine Weaver</u></p> <p>Date: <u>05/02/2025</u></p> <p>Approving Officer or Head of Service: <u></u></p> <p>Date: <u>07/02/2025</u></p>