

Derbyshire Dales District Council Equality Impact Assessment



Please refer to the guidance whilst completing this form.
Contact Elizabeth Wilson [elizabeth.wilson@derbyshiredales.gov.uk, or 01269 761240] for support.

1. Outline

Information required	Detail
a. Title of policy, practice, service or function being assessed	Recording and Livestreaming of Council and Committee Meetings
b. Links to Service and/or Corporate Plan Ref/s	Target Area: Maintain high customer satisfaction about the quality of services we deliver
c. Name and Role of Officers conducting assessment	James McLaughlin Director of Corporate and Customer Services & Monitoring Officer
d. Date of assessment	13 May 2022
e. Reason for assessment	The Council is expected to consider proposals from Members in respect of the recording and livestreaming of Council and committee meetings. In order to inform the decision making process, this assessment is required to consider the impact on individuals and communities if any changes were to be made.
f. What is the purpose of this policy, practice, service or function? (specify aims and objectives)	The purpose of recording and livestreaming is to enable a broader audience of individuals to view the debates and decisions of the Council and committees without having to attend in-person at Matlock Town Hall.
g.	
h. Are there any other organisations involved in its implementation?	No
i. Likely customer groups to be impacted	All citizens and businesses of the Derbyshire Dales

Information required	Detail
j. Other stakeholders likely to be impacted	Other observers with an interest in matters being discussed by the District Council, such as journalists, External Auditors or members of political parties
Which District Council departments are affected by the policy, practice, service or function?	Corporate and Customer Services, specifically Communications & Marketing and Democratic & Electoral Services.
Do any of the objectives directly support or hinder another Council activity?	No

2. Assessing Relevance to the General Equality Duty

The General Equality Duty has three aims which require the District Council to have due regard to the need to:	Tick those which are relevant ✓
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination (both direct or indirect), harassment and victimisation	✓
2. Advance equality of opportunity between all persons by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by protected groups; • taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people • encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or other activities where participation is disproportionately low 	✓
3. Foster good relations between different groups	

3. What existing information / data do you have / monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy, practice, service or function?

For example: previous EIA's, reports, consultation, surveys, demographic data etc.

Information / Data	Data source and date	Information relevant to proposed policy/service/function
Derbyshire Dales Equalities Profile https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/reports/profiles/census_profiles/equalities_profile/district/Derbyshire_Dales.pdf	Derbyshire Observatory; taken from Census 2011 - national survey of all households	18.5% of residents have a disability or long term health problem. In England 17.6% of residents have a disability or long term health problem
Practice of other local authorities in Derbyshire		

4. Consultation and engagement

Who are the stakeholders? How will you gather their views? By when?

If no consultation is necessary, please explain why.

Who will you consult with?	How?	When?	Results
Elected Members	Online Survey	March/April 2022	80% of respondents considered that the Council should continue to record Council and committees (24 out of 39 members responded)

			<p>58.3% of respondents considered that the Council should continue to livestream Council and committee meetings (24 out of 39 members responded)</p>
<p>Local media organisations</p>	<p>By email</p>	<p>May 2022</p>	<p><i>The council's live-streaming of meetings is immensely valuable for me as a reporter and for years now has ensured that I can provide consistent coverage of council affairs and provide articles</i></p> <p><i>Having the live-stream function means I can continue to report on meetings even when I have diary clashes which mean I cannot attend in person but can watch live at home, and also that I can watch back the</i></p>

			<p><i>next day if there is another meeting on at the same time, which is often the case. It also ensures full accuracy of quotes. Having the live-stream boosts involvement from the public and gives more access and an ability to understand what my role is all about - local democracy. The live-stream function really has been welcomed and massively aids transparency, accountability and openness - while providing significantly more access to council affairs for the general public</i></p>
Online Panel Members	By email	May 2022	To be reported to the meeting

Recommendations for changes identified as a result of consultation

The outcome of the survey indicated a preference amongst those Members who participated to continue with the current arrangements for the recording and livestreaming of Council and committee meetings through YouTube.

5. Based on the evidence above, does the policy, practice, service or function have a positive or negative impact on any protected group(s)?

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
Age	<p>People who are unable to, or are uncomfortable with travelling to Matlock Town Hall because of age related issues, are able to view debates and decisions that are important to them from their own home.</p> <p>Younger people who are more familiar with using streaming technology may be more likely to watch online than attend in person</p>	<p>If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.</p> <p>If the service were removed then younger people may be less engaged with local politics.</p>	
<p>Disability or long term ill heath Physical disabilities, sensory impairments, limiting long-term illnesses, learning</p>	<p>People who are unable or uncomfortable with travelling to Matlock Town Hall because of disability or long term ill health are able to view debates and</p>	<p>If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision</p>	

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
disabilities or mental health issues	<p>decisions that are important to them from their own home.</p> <p>People with some mental health issues may find leaving their home and/or being in strange places and/or being with strangers very difficult. The live streaming allows people to be part of live events, engage with politics and observe meetings in the same way as other residents</p>	making process compared to what is offered currently.	
Race / ethnic groups	People of all races and ethnic groups are able to views debates and decisions that are important to them.	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	
Women or men	<p>Live streaming allows people who need to look after their children and cannot therefore leave home to engage with local politics.</p> <p>Live streaming is helpful if people are working, as they may not have time to attend a council meeting.</p>	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
Sexual orientation	No specific issues identified	No specific issues identified	
Religion or belief (including non-belief)	No specific issues identified	No specific issues identified	
Transgender (including people planning to or going through gender reassignment)	A transgender person, particularly someone who is transitioning, may not feel confident in attending a council meeting as they may fear negative reactions. Live streaming means they can engage with local politics confidently.	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently	
Pregnancy and maternity (including maternity and paternity leave)	People who are unable to travel to Matlock Town Hall because of pregnancy or maternity and paternity leave are able to view debates and decisions that are important to them from their own home.	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	
Marital status (including civil partnership & same sex marriage)	Single parents may find it useful to watch live streamed meetings so they can engage with local politics and have confidence in the democratic process. The ability to watch live means that there is no need for a babysitter/childminder	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions

5a. Are there any local priority groups / factors which should be considered?

Other factors	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
Rural areas	The recording and livestreaming of meetings enables residents from across the district to view decision making and debates, which may not easily accessible otherwise for individuals who live in rural parts of the Derbyshire Dales that are not well served by regular public transport, particularly in the evenings when meetings take place.	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	
Poverty / deprivation	The recording and livestreaming of meetings enables residents from across the district to view decision making and debates, which may not be possible for individuals in poverty or deprivation because of the costs associated with travelling to in-person meetings.	If the service were removed then it would be very difficult for this protected group to view and engage with local politics, or have confidence in the decision making process compared to what is offered currently.	

6. Commissioned / outsourced services

Is your policy, practice, service or function partly or wholly provided by any external organisation / agency?	No
If yes, please list any contractual or other arrangements which aim to ensure that the provider promotes equality and diversity (<i>e.g. monitoring data</i>)	N/A

7. Summary

Use this space to summarise key data and its implications, the key issues to be addressed, potential actions to address them and any other points relevant to the Policy/service.

The key consideration in reviewing the continuation of the recording and livestreaming of meetings in how impacts on protected groups is that there are clear positive effects from the provision of this service to some of the most vulnerable, and potentially excluded, people in the Derbyshire Dales.

Should the Council determine that this provision should cease there would be a negative impact on these individuals which will make elected representatives and the decision making process at the District Council more distant and less transparent than present. This would appear to be contrary to the aims of the District Council and the Equality Act 2010.

8. Improvement Plan

Key issues identified	Actions
N/A	N/A

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE POLICY MANAGER / POLICY OFFICER (Consultation & Equalities)

Signed _____ (Completing Officer)