Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

(Version 4)

Item name	Details
Title of service or policy	Charges for Non-Household Waste at Recycling Centres (gas bottles and vehicle tyres)
Name of directorate and service	Place Management – Waste Services
Name and role of officers completing the EqIA	Sammy Moody / Lisa Gore
Date of assessment	8 October 2026

Equality Impact Assessment (or 'Equality Analysis') is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on people and different groups within our community. The main aim is to identify any adverse impacts (i.e. discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and to identify areas where equality can be better promoted). Equality impact Assessments (EqIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so mark N/A any that are not applicable**. It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council's website following relevant service lead approval.

1.1 Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented

Key questions	Answers / notes
1.1 Briefly describe purpose of the service/policy e.g. • How the service/policy is delivered and by whom • If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations • Intended outcomes	The Council already charges for certain wastes that fall outside of the Council's statutory household waste collection obligations, such as plasterboard and rubble. This policy seeks to expand the types of chargeable non-household waste to include gas bottles and vehicle tyres to help recover additional costs of handling, transport and treatment of these wastes, whilst keeping household waste disposal free at the point of use. The policy also aims to prevent these types of commercial waste items from illegally being disposed of as domestic waste at Household Recycling Centres. The approach is consistent with other local authorities. The charges will be introduced by the Waste Services team through the Council website and Recycling Centre booking system. Recycling Centre staff will monitor disposal of these wastes on site to ensure the relevant charge has been paid. Residents will be clearly advised before arrival which items are chargeable, so payments should be made online in advance. If a resident arrives at a Recycling Centre without pre-paying, they can pay online using a smartphone if available. If they need to pay on site and do not have access to a smartphone

	or the internet, site staff will be able to take payment by card. Cash payments will not be available. Most residents will already have free or lower-cost alternatives available. Branded gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier or manufacturer at no cost, and tyres are usually most easily recycled through the garage when replacement tyres are fitted. Residents who still need to use a Recycling Centre for these specialist items will be able to book and pay in advance through the Council's website.
1.2 Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example: • Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one? • Is it a national requirement?). • How much room for review is there?	These are new charges for non-household materials brought to the Council for recycling and / or disposal. Neighbouring authorities, including North Somerset and Somerset, already operate similar charges. There is scope to review this policy, and it will be closely monitored to ensure it recovers costs, remains proportionate, and supports residents to use the correct disposal routes.
1.3 Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?	The proposal does not conflict with other Council policies. It supports the Council's approach to safe and responsible waste disposal, cost recovery for non-household waste, and maintaining household waste disposal free at the point of use.

2. Consideration of available data, research and information

Key questions	Data, research and information that you can refer to
2.1 What equality focussed training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?	All council staff are required to complete corporate training as part of their induction and to review on an annual basis.
2.2 What is the equality profile of service users?	The service is available to all B&NES residents who use the Council's Recycling Centres. No specific equality profile is collected for residents disposing of gas bottles or vehicle tyres, so the assessment draws on district-wide resident need, operational knowledge, customer feedback and service monitoring.
2.3 Are there any recent customer satisfaction surveys to refer to? What were the results? Are there any gaps? Or differences in experience/outcomes?	No recent customer satisfaction survey has been undertaken specifically for gas bottle or vehicle tyre disposal. Any relevant customer feedback, complaints, Recycling Centre usage data and fly-tipping reports will be reviewed after implementation to identify whether residents experience barriers or whether any equality impacts emerge.
2.4 What engagement or consultation has been undertaken as part of this EIA and with whom? What were the results?	No formal consultation has been undertaken specifically for these charges. The proposal concerns specialist non-household waste items and is based on disposal cost recovery, comparison with neighbouring authorities, operational experience at Recycling Centres, and the availability of alternative disposal routes such as supplier take-back for branded gas bottles and tyre disposal through garages when replacement tyres are fitted.
2.5 If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equality considerations within this?	No formal consultation is currently planned. Equality considerations will be included through monitoring customer feedback, complaints, fly-tipping reports, Recycling Centre usage and any operational issues after implementation. If monitoring identifies a disproportionate impact on a protected or locally prioritised group, the service will review the communications, payment route and charging approach as appropriate.

3. Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equality groups

Key questions	**Examples of what the service has done to promote equality**	**Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this**
3.1 Issues relating to all groups and protected characteristics	By continuing to accept gas bottles and vehicle tyres at Keynsham and Old Welton Recycling Centres for a reasonable charge, residents retain access to a safe and legal recycling route. Cost recovery helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the service, benefiting all residents. A clear communications campaign will ensure that residents are aware that free or lower-cost alternatives are available. Branded gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier or manufacturer at no cost, and tyres are usually most easily recycled through the garage when replacement tyres are fitted.	Residents needing to dispose of gas bottles or vehicle tyres may experience some inconvenience, as these items cannot be accepted free of charge and must be disposed of through the Council's charged service or by a licensed private contractor. The proposed charges for gas bottles and vehicle tyres have been set at a reasonable level, balancing the need to recover the Council's disposal costs while ensuring residents are not discouraged from using recycling centres to dispose of these items responsibly.
3.2 Sex – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on women and men.	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.3 Pregnancy and maternity	No known impacts	No known impacts

3.4 Gender reassignment – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on transgender people	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.5 Disability – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on disabled people (ensure consideration of physical, sensory and mental health needs/differences)	We will use a variety of communication methods to ensure residents are aware of free or lower-cost disposal routes. Branded gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier or manufacturer at no cost, and tyres are usually most easily recycled through the garage when replacement tyres are fitted. The payment process will also allow staff to support card payment on site where a resident cannot pay online in advance.	Residents with certain disabilities may be less able to shop around for alternative disposal options and could face additional transport costs if they need to dispose of these items. This will be mitigated by clear information on free or lower-cost disposal routes, reasonable charge levels, and monitoring of customer feedback or complaints after implementation.
3.6 Age – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on different age groups	We will use a variety of communication methods to ensure residents are aware of free or lower-cost disposal routes. Information will be available before arrival so residents can understand which items are chargeable, what alternatives are available, and how payment can be made.	Older residents on fixed incomes may be disproportionately affected by additional charges and may also be less confident using online payment routes. This will be mitigated through clear pre-arrival information, staff support for card payment on site where needed, advice on free or lower-cost alternatives, and monitoring of feedback after implementation.
3.7 Race – identify the impact/potential impact on across different ethnic groups	No known impacts.	Residents whose first language is not English may require communications to be translated to understand what to do. On site staff will be provided with a visual

		guide to costs and the information on the website can be translated via web browsers.
3.8 Sexual orientation – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, questioning people	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.9 Marriage and civil partnership – does the policy/strategy treat married and civil partnered people equally?	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.10 Religion/belief – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on people of different religious/faith groups and also upon those with no religion.	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.11 Socio-economically disadvantaged* – identify the impact on people who are disadvantaged due to factors like family background, educational attainment, neighbourhood, employment status can influence life chances **(this is not a legal requirement, but is a local priority).**	We will use a variety of communication methods to ensure residents are aware of free or lower-cost disposal routes. Branded gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier or manufacturer at no cost, and tyres are usually most easily recycled through the garage when replacement tyres are fitted.	Residents on fixed or low incomes may be disproportionately affected by additional charges. This will be mitigated by setting charges as low as possible to cover costs, clearly signposting free or lower-cost alternatives, and reviewing charges and usage data through the annual fees and charges process.
3.12 Rural communities* identify the impact / potential impact on people living in rural communities	We will use a variety of communication methods to ensure residents are aware of free or lower-cost disposal routes. Branded gas bottles can usually be returned to the supplier or manufacturer at no cost, and tyres are usually most	Rural communities may be more likely to use gas bottles for heating, cooking or outdoor activities and may have fewer convenient alternative disposal options. This will be mitigated by clear information on supplier take-back routes, reasonable

	easily recycled through the garage when replacement tyres are fitted.	charge levels, and monitoring of Recycling Centre usage, feedback and fly-tipping reports after implementation.
3.13 Armed Forces Community ** serving members; reservists; veterans and their families, including the bereaved. Public services are required by law to pay due regard to the Armed Forces Community when developing policy, procedures and making decisions, particularly in the areas of public housing, education and healthcare (to remove disadvantage and consider special provision).	No known impacts	No known impacts
3.14 Care Experienced *** This working definition is currently under review and therefore subject to change: In B&NES, you are 'care-experienced' if you spent any time in your childhood in Local Authority care, living away from your parent(s) for example, you were adopted, lived in residential, foster care, kinship care, or a special guardianship arrangement.	No known impacts	People with care experience face overlapping social disadvantages which may be disproportionately affected by additional charges. This will be mitigated by setting charges as low as possible to cover costs, clearly signposting free or lower-cost alternatives, and reviewing charges and usage data through the annual fees and charges process.

*There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

** The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay 'due regard' to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

***The Equality Act does not cover care experienced people. B&NES adopted this group as a protected characteristic in March 2024 alongside over 80 other Local Authorities. Although we have data for care leavers and children/young people who are currently in the care of B&NES we do not have wider data on disadvantage experienced through being in care.

4. Bath and North East Somerset Council
Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when
Potential barriers for residents who may have limited digital access, reduced confidence using online systems, or no access to a smartphone when attending site.	Provide clear pre-arrival information on the Council website and booking system. Ensure site staff can support card payment on site where a resident cannot pay online in advance. Make clear that cash payments will not be available.	Website and booking system wording reviewed before launch. Site staff briefing includes payment support process. Customer feedback and complaints monitored for evidence of access barriers.	Waste Strategy / Digital and Customer Services	Before launch, with feedback reviewed after three months.
Potential disproportionate impact on residents with mobility issues, older residents, residents on low or fixed incomes, and rural residents who may have fewer alternative disposal options.	Ensure communications clearly explain the lowest-cost and free alternatives, including returning branded gas bottles to suppliers where available and disposing of tyres through garages when replacement tyres are fitted.	Communications issued through a range of channels before launch. Advice on free or lower-cost alternatives included in web content and customer messaging.	Waste Strategy / Communications	Before launch; review as part of annual fees and

	Keep charges under review to ensure they remain proportionate to disposal costs.	Charges and usage data reviewed alongside budget and operational monitoring.		charges process.

5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equality Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk), who will publish it on the Council's website. Keep a copy for your own records.

Signed off by: Lisa Gore, Service Manager – Strategy & Contracts, Waste & Fleet
Date: 27/10/2026