

Equality Needs and Impact Assessment

Policy: Amendment to the Resident's Parking Policy – abolition of the £12 charge for Essential Visitor Permits

EINA form dated 15th June 2005

Comments of Environment Directorate EINA facilitator

1. The assessment relates to an amendment to an existing policy – that is, to remove a £12 annual charge for Essential Visitor Permits. The purpose of the permits is to allow carers, who need to make regular visits to a resident within a residents parking zone, to park their cars there.
2. As such the change to the policy will have only a positive impact for those who are eligible for EVPs, i.e. residents within a residents parking zone who are pensioners (women over 60 and men over 65), hold a disabled person's (blue) badge or whose doctor/social services confirm the need for a permit.
3. My view is that the act of removing the charge itself has no foreseeable negative impact on any separately identifiable sections of the community. Indeed the removal of the charge is intended to amend an existing policy in a positive way, meaning that a detailed assessment is unnecessary. It is noted however that questions in section two have been answered, which is helpful in explaining how an anomaly in the substantive policy will be removed.
4. The resident's parking permit scheme generally, including the eligibility for EVPs, is not included in the assessment but it is understood that equalities issues were considered at the time the policy was drafted. The owner of the policy should consider the need for a new EINA covering the policy as a whole, using the new DCC guidance, if evidence emerges from take up of the scheme or feedback from residents, that it may have implications for equality. For example, the eligibility of pensioners for EVPs may be seen to perpetuate an inequality inherent in the definition of a pensioner. The purpose of including this group needs to be understood because if it was removed from the criteria, issue of EVPs could possibly be seen to be based more on need rather than age and sex.

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