

# Equality Impact

Please see the *How to do an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet for help in completing this form. You are welcome to contact Delyth Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708, or [DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru), for further help.

The Council is required (under Equality Act 2010) to consider the impact of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new one) on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has additional general duties set out in part 2b. A timely equality impact assessment must therefore be made before making a decision on any relevant change (i.e. one that affects people with a specific protected characteristic).

## 1 Details

### 1.1 What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

### 1.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or changed? What changes are being considered?

To undertake a statutory review of the polling districts and polling places in the Arfon and Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituencies. To consider whether any changes should be made to the current arrangements.

### 1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Iwan Evans, Head of Legal Services

### 1.4 When did you begin the assessment? What version is this?

Specific statutory steps were taken in undertaking the review which included direct engagement with persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

## 2) Implementation

**2.1 Who are the partners that you will have to work with to carry out this assessment?**

The review was undertaken by the Legal Services with observations from eth (Acting) Returning Officer

**2.2. What steps have you taken to engage with people with protected characters?**

As part of the review, a public notice of the review was published, together with details of the current polling districts and polling stations, and copies were sent to potential interested parties, including the county's Access Groups, as persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

**2.3 What was the result of the engagement?**

- No observations were received from the access groups
- Six responses were received to the consultation. Concerns were put forward in relation to two polling stations as they were not ideal from the point of view of access for disabled electors. However those who raised the concerns also acknowledged the current lack of suitable alternatives. In relation to one polling station, it has subsequently been confirmed that arrangements are in place for a ramp to be used to assist entry.

**2.4 What other information informed the way you operate?**

The review of polling places is a continuous process and that there is nothing to prevent changes being made at any time before the next statutory review. The situation will therefore continue to be monitored. In addition to the information received when an election is held, we also receive information from sources such as local members and the community council .

**2.5 Are there any gaps in evidence that need to be gathered?**

**3) Identifying the Impact**

**3.1 The Council must give due regard to the impact any changes will have on people with equality characteristics. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes have on these characteristics? You are welcome to add further characteristics if you wish.**

Characteristics	What type of impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?

<b>Race (including nationality)</b>	None	
<b>The Welsh language</b>	None	
<b>Disability</b>	Positive /	Ensuring convenient polling places for those with disabilities
<b>Gender</b>	None	
<b>Age</b>	Positive	Ensuring convenient polling places for voters with young families.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	None	
<b>Religion or belief (or lack of belief)</b>	None	
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	None	
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Positive	Ensuring convenient polling places for pregnant voters and those with young families.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	None	

\* delete as appropriate

**3.2 It is the Council's duty, under the Equality Act 2010, to contribute positively to a fairer community by promoting equality and good relationships in their activities in the areas of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, transgender, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due regard to the way any change affects these duties.**

<b>General Duties of the Equality Act</b>	<b>Does the policy have an impact?*</b>	<b>In what way? What is the evidence?</b>
<b>Remove illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Yes	Ensuring convenient polling places for voters with protected characteristics

<b>Promoting equal opportunities</b>	Yes	Ensuring convenient polling places for voters with protected characteristics
<b>Encouraging good relationships</b>	Yes	Enabling people to take part in the electoral, democratic process.

\* delete as appropriate

#### 4) Analysing the results

##### 4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duties and what is the reason for this?

The purposes of the review is to try to ensure accessible polling places

##### 4.2 Is the Plan therefore likely to have a substantial, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or General Duties and what is the reason for this?

We have not identified any significant negative effects.

##### 4.3 What should be done?

Select one of the following:

Continue with the plan as it is robust

X

Adapt the plan to remove any barriers	
Suspend and abolish the plan as the detrimental impacts are too large	
Continue with the plan as any detrimental impact can be justified	

**4.4 If continuing with the plan, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

We have not identified any significant negative effects

**4.5 If you do not take further action to remove or reduce negative impacts, explain why here.**

n/a

**5) Monitoring**

**5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the plan (action plan)?**

The review of polling places is a continuous process. In addition to the information received when an election is held, we also receive information from sources such as local members and the community council. This information alerts us to any problems that may have arisen or to new locations that may offer better facilities than a current polling station.