

Report to: Stakeholder Relations and Co
Agenda item: 10
Date: 20th October 2009
Subject: BTPA Equality Impact Assessment Annual Report
Sponsor: Deputy Chief Executive
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For: Information

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 To present an annual report on the Authority's Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) activities during 2008 and a summary of the completed/planned activities for the remainder of 2009.
- 1.2 This report is presented for information only.

2. Background

- 2.1 An EIA is a process or 'toolkit' which assists the Authority in identifying the likely impacts of an existing or proposed policy or function on a range of groups or individuals. The EIA process also helps the Authority to take the necessary steps to prevent or minimise the negative consequences of that policy or function. The impact assessment process also provides a mechanism for all diversity related decisions about policies and functions to be taken in a structured and informed way and for these decisions to be documented.
- 2.2 The requirement for public bodies to undertake EIAs arises from the 'specific duties' set out in the following pieces of legislation;
 - Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
 - Disability Discrimination Act 1995
 - Equality Act 2006
- 2.3 The Authority adopted a two phase EIA process which involves an initial EIA (IEIA) which is carried out internally and this is followed, where necessary, by a full EIA (FEIA) process where external input is sought. Depending on the nature of the policy

the FEIA process may involve a full external consultation exercise.

3. Summary of recent activity

3.1 As set out in the plans embedded within BTPA's Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes, the Authority has initially focused its EIA activities on those policies and functions which were internally assessed to be high priority/risk. All new policies and functions have also been subject to an IEIA (and a follow-up FEIAs where necessary) as and when they have been developed.

4. Summary of activity in 2008/9

4.1 The table at Appendix A of this paper lists both the EIAs completed and those currently in progress for the years 2008 and 2009. The table also summarises the main issues arising and any amendments to policies arising from the EIA process.

5. Financial implications

5.1 No financial implications arise from this report.

6. Risk implications

6.1 No risk implications arise from this report.

7. Diversity implications

7.1 The EIA process is an important tool for the Authority, no additional diversity issues arise from this report.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to note the attached report.