

# Equality Assessment

Title:	<b>Combined Authority</b>	
Version:	<b>2</b>	
Owner:	<b>Chief Executive</b>	
Date sent to the Equalities Group:	<b>May 2016</b>	

<b>VERSION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>REVISION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>APPROVAL DATE / REASON FOR REJECTION (to be completed by Equalities Officer)</b>
1.0	15.3.16	Draft	
2.0	31/03/2016	Approved	19.5.16

## Section 1: Getting Started

<b>Name of Policy, Procedure, Practice, Strategy or Service:</b>	Combined Authority
<b>Service, Group, Team:</b>	Full Council
<b>Equality Assessment Lead Officer:</b>	Performance and Community Manager
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2016

## Section 2: What is being assessed?

*What are the broad objective(s) of the policy, procedure, practice, strategy or Service to be assessed?*

*What are you assessing and what is being affected*

*What needs is the policy/service designed to meet?*

*What are the current priorities and the intended outcomes?*

*You could also refer to your current Service Plans and how the policy/service fits into EBC's strategic objective*

*How does the policy, procedure, practice, strategy or service align with Corporate Priorities*

**A combined authority is a formal governance structure designed to strengthen councils' collective approach to strategic decisions on transport, economic development and regeneration. Combined authorities have functions delegated to them by central government including the pooling of resources and responsibilities in order to deliver improved transport, economic policy and support over a larger area.**

**The North Midlands Combined Authority is the consideration of a joint arrangement between the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire district councils, Derby city and Nottingham city council.**

**Erewash Borough Council at its Council Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 unanimously agreed to opt out of the Combined Authority devolution deal, the extract from the minutes is copied below.**

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive which advised of the latest position reached in discussions with government for the North Midlands devolution agreement and combined authority. The report sought members' views to make the council's position clear regarding participation or otherwise in the agreement which will clarify the geography of the combined authority and devolution agreement.

The Chief Executive advised Council that the draft North Midlands Devolution Agreement version 26 had received public coverage since the agenda went to print and was no longer considered to be confidential. The document was not a proposal put forward by government but indicated common ground and matters requiring resolution.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Corbett and seconded by Councillor Mrs Hart:

**“Having considered fully all the matters relating to the North Midlands draft devolution agreement known at this stage, Erewash Borough Council resolves that it would not be in the best interests of Erewash, its residents and its businesses, to participate in the North Midlands devolution agreement and mayoral combined authority”.**

During debate Councillors raised concerns relating to:

- the elected mayor which had still not yet been decided and how it would fit in a large and diverse two tier area;
- the Secretary of State's powers to add and subtract powers after authorities had signed the agreement;
- the governance arrangements which were still to be decided;
- the unknown additional resources the elected mayor and possible deputy mayor(s) would require and the creation of an additional tier of local government;
- not knowing all details prior to signing the agreement; and
- the borough's assets which would be lost.

In accordance with council procedure rule 17.4 the motion was put to a recorded vote as follows:

For the motion (43)

Against the motion (0)

Nil.

Abstentions (0)

Nil.

The Worshipful the Mayor declared the motion **CARRIED** unanimously and it was:

**RESOLVED** that having considered fully all the matters relating to the North Midlands draft devolution agreement known at this stage, Erewash Borough Council resolves that it would not be in the best interests of Erewash, its residents and its businesses, to participate in the North Midlands devolution agreement and mayoral combined authority.

Reason for decision/expected outcome(s)

Work on a devolution agreement and combined authority has been predicated on the belief that new forms of governance, joint working and devolution of powers and resources may bring with them the potential for increased economic growth, expansion of employment and training, housing investment and influence over and investment in transport.

The expenses of the proposed combined authority will need to be borne by participating councils or taxpayers via a precept. The costs of establishing and operating the offices of the proposed elected mayor and combined authority are not yet known but may be significant.

Given the four year cycle of mayoral elections it is anticipated that there would be a four year interval before the council has a further opportunity to join.

### Section 3: Gathering Information

**What equality monitoring information do you gather and how is this information used to develop services, functions and policies at the current time.** *You could look at the take up of services, customer satisfaction (complaints and compliments) and enforcement action.*

**What does available data and the results of any consultations show about the take up of services? What is the impact on different groups? (qualitative and quantitative).** *You could look at:*

- *previous community consultation exercises,*
- *customer service reviews and analysis.*
- *Census data*
- *the experiences and views of front-line staff in relation to the provision of the service?*
- *location of facilities.*

**Remember:** by law you are required to be able to demonstrate, through data analysis and evidence, that you have considered the impact of your service on **ALL** of the relevant protected groups. This document is just a short summary of this process and a tool to help you to check that you have taken the Equality Act 2010 and the Council's equality objectives into consideration.

**At this stage of the proposal there are no potential negative impacts or barriers identified for any of the protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010.**

**The Council has opted out of the devolution deal for the North Midlands area which will result in no change in service delivery for the communities of Erewash. The communities will continue to receive the services provided by the Council. Any changes in policy or service provision will be covered by the existing Equality Policy and supporting procedures which require that an equality impact assessment is undertaken in relation to the changes. Any impacts on the protected characteristics will be assessed at that time. It is therefore stated that the decision is equality neutral.**

## Section 4: Impact Assessment

*Here you need to analyse the needs of different groups and the possible impacts the service may have on them. List below any groups you need with to assess need or impact and methods used: (you may need to add extra rows)*

*How is the policy or decision likely to affect the **promotion of equality** and the **elimination of discrimination** in each of the groups?*

Stake Holder Group	Specific Needs/Requirements in relation to the service	Possible Impact (positive and negative) of service
Age (older people, young people)	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	
People with Disabilities (Both physical and mental impairments)	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	
Gender (Women, Men, Transgender, Transsexuals)	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	

Race (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic groups. Include people whose first language is not English)	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	
Sexual Orientation	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	
Religion and belief	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	
Dignity, Human Rights and Socio-economic disadvantage	None anticipated as the decision is equality neutral	

## Section 5: Actions

*How will you mitigate the possible negative impacts of the policy, procedure, practice, strategy or service*

<b>Negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
In terms of negative impacts, there may be the perception from stakeholders that their local authority area is losing out to the benefit of potential investment and funding.	This will be managed appropriately through effective communication of decision making processes and reasoning	Chief Executive/Director of Community Services	