

# Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** Customer Focus

**Head of Service:** Sarah Higgins

**Lead Officer:** Sarah Higgins

**Date of Assessment:** 23/01/2024

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:** Sarah Higgins

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**Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:** Town Centre Hub

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:** North Devon Council to occupy x2 long term empty units in Green Lanes along with other 3rd party/parties

**Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:** Late 2024

## Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Increased visibility and availability of NDC staff for the public	Town Centre staff located at Lynton House	Town Centre staff located in Green Lanes	The footfall at Lynton House is approx.. 10,000 per day
It will be a shared space with the Police offering increased visibility	Both NDC and Police are currently located outside the town centre	Community safety officers from both organisations will be centrally located	This increase in visibility will benefit both the public and retailers
Greater participation by the public in consultations and an increased awareness of corporate priorities and projects.	NDC are very active online with regard to public consultations and corporate priorities	Town centre location offers an opportunity to engage with a greater number of residents in a physical setting	The footfall at Lynton House is minimal whereas Green Lanes has approx. 10,000 per day
Income generation for NDC	The units at Green Lanes have been empty for over 2 years with no interest from retailers	By sharing the unit space with 3rd party/parties NDC has the opportunity to generate an income stream	Current costs to NDC for the units to remain empty is £50,000 per annum

## Impact:

**Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic.** (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics)  
Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

We believe there will be a positive impact for all customers/residents. Green Lanes is fully accessible for wheelchair users, there is bus stop directly outside the Boutport Street entrance and there are toilets which offers facilities for all disabilities within a few metres of the entrance of the proposed hub.

## Consideration of Alternatives:

**Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):**

The alternative is to remain within Lynton House. There are no negative effects identified with the move and therefore none of the positive outcomes highlighted above would be realised.

### **Consultation:**

**Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:**

A public consultation took place between 30/10/2023 and 11/12/2023 with 214 participants. The results from this consultation are included as an appendix to the report going to Strategy & Resources on Monday 5th February 2024.

### **Funding Considerations:**

The proposal is to be funded from earmarked reserves.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 23/01/2024

### **Reporting and Publication:**

**Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.**

**The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.**

**A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.**

**Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.**

Dependent on level of occupation by Police or other 3rd parties

### **Monitoring Arrangements:**

**Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.**

Number of visitors to the centre will be monitored.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 23/01/2024

**Corporate and Community Services Use Only:** Date of publication to NDC

Website: Click or tap to enter a date.