Borough of Poole Equality Impact Assessment

Function:	Local Land Charges
Service Unit, Strategic Lead or Partnership:	Legal and Democratic Services Peter Pawlowski, Strategic Director (Resources)
Names & roles of officers/ partners undertaking EQIA:	Paul Morris, Registration Services Manager (Lead Equality Officer) Tim Martin, Service Unit Head and Monitoring Officer Liz Hall, Business Support Manager (Equality Group Representative)
Date completed:	30 March 2009

Aims of the Function

The aims of the function are to provide and promote an accessible, user friendly and responsive Local Land Charges system embracing new technology that meets the needs of the community.

It aims to benefit anyone who wishes to buy or sell residential or commercial premises or land within the Borough of Poole.

The Registration Services Manager together with the Senior Land Charges Clerk are responsible for the function and the service is delivered by a dedicated team of 2 utilising partnership arrangements offered by NLIS.

The function is carried out by the team fronted by the Senior Land Charges Clerk and the Registration Services Manager with assistance from various Service Units – Planning, Building Consultancy, Environmental Health and Consumer Protection and Transportation Services who must provide a service that complies with all the relevant legilsation and guidance by the DCLG and Ministry of Justice.

It supports the following Council Corporate Objectives:

- Strengthening our Communities
- Developing a Dynamic Economy

It supports the following Council Priorities:

- Revitalising our Town Centre
- Improving Housing for Local People
- Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness

How does it fit with the Authority's wider aims?
The delivery of a fully electronic and fully legally compliant Local Land Charges function fits with the concept of e-business. There has already been a massive reduction in the use of paper/ envelopes and a diminution of the use of mail delivery services.

How does it fit with other legislative requirements/Codes of Practice or other related policies within BoP?

- Local Government Acts (1972), (2000) and (2007)
- Land Charges Act
- Land Charges Rules
- Law of Property Act
- Numerous Statutory Regulations
- Corporate assessment toolkit
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Performance indicators set by DCLG and NLIS

Equality Strand	EQIA Evidence	SMART Actions	Performance Measures
People from different age groups	**Key findings:** The service is open to all but in practice it is only used by HIP's Providers, Personal Search Agents, Solicitors, licensed conveyancers & Estate Agents The service is available during normal office hours	Online booking system will be available to personal search enquirers shortly	Identify from survey of customers/ users of the service
Disabled people	**Key findings:** Although never requested Large Print Version of the forms are available. NLIS, the service provider of the on line facility is able to provide proper access tools from their system including set contrast, text only [excluding plans], translation etc. The building in which Land Charges operates is DDA compliant. **Current mitigating actions/ positive actions** Details of the service and how it functions are available on BoP.com which is equipped with the necessary web tools to assist people. E-mail and fully electronic delivery of the service is now in operation.		

Equality Strand	EQIA Evidence	SMART Actions	Performance Measures
People of different faith or belief	**Key findings:** No statistics are collected from the small range of persons who use the service. **Current mitigating actions/ positive actions** Legal & Democratic Services Unit has an excellent relationship with members of the faith community.		
Gender / Trans people	**Key findings:** We are unable to obtain information from the users of the service. A better understanding of the issues facing transgenders would assist.	Encourage attendance on new course 'Transgender Awareness' in May and June 2009 and distribute NHS leaflet 'Transgender experiences – information and support' throughout unit.	
Black and minority ethnic people	**Key findings:** There has never been any complaint of discrimination in this field within the function**.**		
Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual people	**Key findings** There has never been any complaint of discrimination in this field within the function**.**		
Review date:	March 2012	**Sent record to PERD Rep and <u>Improvement and Policy Officer – Equalities</u>**	31 March2009