

**Appendix 4d: Equality Analysis (EA) Record Form**

Formerly Equality Impact Assessment



**Revised February 2015**

Department: Community and Environmental Services

Team or Service Area Leading Assessment: Corporate Delivery Unit

Title of Policy/ Service or Function: Community Flood Resilience Policy 2023-25

Proposals to introduce/ alter/ delete policy, service, expenditure etc.: Introduce

Date of proposals: November 2022

Committee/Team: Executive

Lead Officer: John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

**STEP 1 - IDENTIFYING THE PURPOSE OR AIMS**

1. What type of policy, service or function is this?

Existing  New/ proposed  Changing/ updated

2. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

The Blackpool Council Community Flood Resilience Policy has been produced in order to help build flood resilience and reduce the impact of flooding on properties in Blackpool. This policy document sets out guidance to ensure that residents are aware of and able to reflect upon measures they can take to prepare prior to a flooding incident taking place.

3. Please outline any proposals being considered.

The policy proposes property flood resilience measures that property owners can adopt to reduce the impact of flooding, should water get inside their property.

The policy also outlines plans for the council to support the establishment and development of local based Community Flood Action Groups or Forum, in order to enable effective communication to those in high-risk areas, as well as sharing of best practice and latest developments.

4. What outcomes do we want to achieve?

The objectives of the Blackpool Council Community Flood Resilience Policy are to:

- Enable a consistent response to requests for assistance in a flood event.
- Provide clear lines of accountability and communication with residents and partners.

- Provide clear concise information around any other flood defence/protection and equipment used by residents.
- Ensure consistent messaging by the Council and its' emergency partners during flood-event communications.

5. Who is the policy, service or function intended to help/ benefit?

The policy will help enable communities who live in high flood risk areas to become more resilient in preparedness for a flood event.

6. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Council staff, emergency partners, communities who live in high flood risk areas and the general public.

7. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to Equality/ Diversity or community cohesion?

No.

## STEP 2 - CONSIDERING EXISTING INFORMATION AND WHAT THIS TELLS YOU

8. Please summarise the main data/ research and performance management information in the box below.

### **Data/ information**

#### **General:**

Blackpool has a resident population of approximately 138,381. Blackpool is coastal town with a dense urban area.

#### **Flood Risk:**

The Environment Agency on behalf of government, have produced flood risks maps to show the potential risk and impacts of flooding in the flood risk areas. Flood risk maps showing the flood risk from rivers or the sea, from surface water and from reservoirs in Blackpool can be found at <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map>. The flood risk maps show that most areas in Blackpool are low flood risk, with some medium and high flood risk areas.

#### **Age:**

A larger proportion of residents are aged 65+ (20.5%) compared to the national age structure (18.5%). The working age population (16-64) in Blackpool is smaller than the national figure, additionally the 0-15 population in Blackpool is also slightly smaller than the national age structure.

#### **Health and Disability:**

The health of people in Blackpool is generally worse than the national average. The town records one of the lowest life expectancy rates nationally and there are inequalities by deprivation and gender. The average life expectancy for males is 74.1 years, and for females it is 79.5 years. The average life expectancy across the town is one of the lowest nationally. Health priorities for Blackpool include alcohol and drug misuse, mental health, smoking and obesity.

25.6% of people in Blackpool reported a long-term health problem or disability at the last Census, which is eight percentage points higher than the national average.

#### **Gender and Transgender:**

50.3% of the Blackpool population are estimated to be female and 49.7% are male. Transgender data for Blackpool is currently unavailable.

#### **Race and Ethnicity:**

Residents are mostly of White British ethnicity (93.6%), which is significantly higher than across England and Wales (80.5%). Black and minority ethnic groups, including Irish and European residents, are estimated to make up 6.4% of the population (approximately 9,000 people), compared with the estimated population for England and Wales of 19.5%.

#### **Sexual Orientation:**

ONS estimates from Annual Population survey data that amongst adults in Blackpool, around 107,100 (94.9%) adults identify as heterosexual, 3,700 (3.2%) people identify as gay or lesbian, around 600 (0.6%) people identify as bisexual and 500 (0.4%) adults whose sexual orientation is classified as 'other'.

For around 1,000 adults in Blackpool sexual orientation is unknown due to answering 'don't know' or declining to answer the survey question. Other estimates have put Blackpool's LGBTQ+ population as higher than the combined estimates from the data above.

#### **Housing**

There is a high percentage of private rented dwellings in Blackpool and a slightly lower owner-occupier rate than seen nationally:

- 63.8% - owner occupied (England: 65.7%)
- 25.9% - privately rented (England: 17.9%)
- 10.3% - social rented (England: 16.4%)

#### **Household Composition**

The households in Blackpool have a slightly higher proportion of lone parent families and lone adults (both over 65 and under 65) than England.

Lone parents are more at risk of financial exclusion because they are at greatest risk of unemployment due to the demands of balancing working and home life, especially with younger children.

#### **Household types**

- 15% - lone adults over 65 years (England: 13.9%)

- 23% - lone adults under 65 years (England: 14.4%)
- 13% - lone parent families (England: 9.8%)
- 8% - single families with all adults over 65 (England: 8%)
- 35% - single families cohabiting/married with all adults under 65 (England: 43%).

### ***Research or comparative information***

#### **National Context**

##### **General:**

The Environment Agency's 2008 National Flood Risk Assessment shows there are 2.4 million properties at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea in England. Preliminary assessment of surface water flood risk also suggests that one million of these are also susceptible to surface water flooding with a further 2.8 million properties susceptible to surface water flooding alone. In all, around 5.2 million properties in England, or one in six properties, are at risk of flooding. The expected annual damages to residential and non-residential properties in England at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea is estimated at more than £1 billion<sup>i</sup>.

##### **Age:**

According to the Environment Agency, research has shown that 18 to 34 year olds are least likely to perceive flood risk to their area, know how to protect their homes or where to go for information. They are also at highest risk of fatality as they are less likely to perceive their personal risk<sup>ii</sup>.

Older people also have a disproportionate vulnerability to the effect of disasters, with frail or disabled older people being particularly at risk. Vulnerability amongst older people is dependent upon state of health, personality characteristics and social support network. Those without nearby family and friends are at an increased vulnerability to flooding.

##### **Health and Disability:**

Those with physical or mental disability or long term illness may have particular difficulties receiving warnings and being able to respond to them. Special needs populations, for example, those in residential care homes, hospitals, schools etc. may experience particularly difficulty in evacuation.

##### **Pregnancy and Maternity:**

Flood-related stress can have a negative impact on pregnant mothers and their unborn babies. Research has shown that exposure to flooding can affect decreases in birth weight. Individuals with sole responsibility for young children are especially vulnerable as they may have particular problems in responding quickly in the face of imminent flooding.

##### **Race and Ethnicity:**

Language differences may obstruct reception of flood warnings and cultural differences may exacerbate the impact of floods.

##### **Sex:**

Women tend to recover more slowly than men from natural disasters and play a

key role in the work of recovery after flood events. As primary care-givers women are more likely than men to have responsibility for dependants in the event of a flood and conversely are also more likely to be the sole adult householder (as lone parents or lone older people).

**Sexual Orientation:**

Research has shown that after a disaster, LGBTQ people are more likely to be isolated due to discrimination and social exclusion. High rates of social isolation for LGBTQI+ means they are more likely to be alone and less likely to have familial resources that can support receiving emergency messages and accessing assistance. The LGBTQI+ population also has a significant lack of trust in emergency responders and health care systems that have discriminated against them before.

**Socio-economic Factors:**

Poorer people are less likely to be adequately insured for flood damage, more likely to live in homes at particular risk of flooding (i.e. caravans) and to have lower levels of education which may impede the reception of warnings.

**Housing:**

Individuals living in rented properties are less likely to receive flood risk warnings and appropriate flood-related information.

Individuals who also live alone are more vulnerable to flood risk. Those who live alone are reportedly more vulnerable partly because they may find it difficult or impossible to save furniture or other items in the event of a flood and partly because anxiety levels could be greater if not shared. Single householders are at even more at risk where there is no local network of family or friends

***Key findings of consultation and feedback***

Consultation has not taken place at this stage but engagement with flood action groups is planned in future.

9. What are the impacts or effects for Key Protected Characteristics?

<b><i>General</i></b>
No overall general negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified.
<b><i>Age</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with age. However, it is acknowledged that 18 to 34 year olds are least likely to perceive flood risk to their area, know how to protect their homes or where to go for information. They are also at highest risk of fatality as they are less likely to perceive their personal risk.
Older people also have a disproportionate vulnerability to the effect of disasters, with frail or disabled older people being particularly at risk. Vulnerability amongst older people is dependent upon state of health, personality characteristics and social support network.

<b><i>Disability</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with disability. However, it is acknowledged that those with physical or mental disability or long term illness may have particular difficulties in understanding their responsibility to provide flood protection to their property and may struggle fitting property flood resilience measures themselves.
<b><i>Gender Reassignment</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with gender reassignment. However, it is acknowledged that transgender people experience higher levels of disadvantage and social/financial exclusion and therefore may face greater difficulties adopting flood resilience measures and attending Community Flood Action Groups or Forum.
<b><i>Marriage and Civil partnership</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with marriage and civil partnership.
<b><i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with pregnancy and maternity. However, it is acknowledged that individuals with sole responsibility for young children are especially vulnerable to flooding as they may have particular problems in responding quickly in the face of imminent flooding.
<b><i>Race</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with race. However, it is acknowledged that people from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to be on low incomes, and have lower levels of education and employment which means they are less likely to be able to accumulate savings to purchase property flood resilience measures.  There may also be potential communication issues where English is not the residents first language and where documents printed in Standard English is not the optimum method of communicating. Residents whose first language is not English may have greater difficulty in understanding their responsibility to provide flood protection to their property and attending the Community Flood Actions Groups or Forums, thereby exacerbating the impact of flooding.
<b><i>Religion and Belief</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with religion and belief.
<b><i>Sex</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with sex. However, it is acknowledged that as primary care-givers women are more likely than men to have responsibility for dependants in the event of a flood.
<b><i>Sexual Orientation</i></b>
No overall negative impact of the Community Flood Resilience Policy 2022 has been identified associated with sexual orientation. It is recognised that LGBTQ+ people experience higher levels of disadvantage and social/financial exclusion than other groups and therefore may face barriers to adopting flood resilience measures and

attending Community Flood Action Groups or Forum.

10. What do you know about how the proposals could affect community cohesion?

The establishment and development of local based community flood action groups/ forums could improve community cohesion by encouraging communities to work together to raise awareness of local flood issues as well as enabling communities to share their skills and knowledge to prepare for future flood events. The adoption of flood defence/protection and equipment by residents will also strengthen community resilience to flood risk.

11. What do you know about how the proposals could impact on levels of socio –economic inequality, in particular Poverty?

The Community Flood Resilience Policy should not have a negative impact on poverty in Blackpool. However, it is acknowledged that lower socio-economic groups may have lower levels of education which may impact their understanding of their responsibility to protect their property from flooding. Additionally, those in lower socio-economic groups may also lack the financial means needed to purchase property flood resilience measures. Nevertheless, if property owners and occupiers in flood risk areas purchase property flood resilience measures this can result in reduced insurance premiums and excesses, and can also prevent insurance claims being made and reduces recovery time and costs, avoiding having to relocate for months. Additionally, with property flood resilience measures in place, property sales prospects are improved as the buyer wouldn't need to carry out additional property flood resilience works once they purchase the property.

### STEP 3 - ANALYSING THE IMPACT

12. Is there any evidence of higher or lower take-up by any group or community, and if so, how is this explained?

- 18 to 34 year olds are least likely to adopt property flood resilience measures. This is because this age group are least likely to perceive flood risk to their area, know how to protect their homes or where to go for information. They are also at highest risk of fatality as they are less likely to perceive their personal risk.
- Language differences may obstruct reception of flood warnings and information around flood defence/protection.
- Those with a physical or mental disability or long term illness may have particular difficulties in understanding their responsibility to provide flood protection to their property and may struggle fitting property flood resilience measures themselves.

13. Do any rules or requirements prevent any groups or communities from using or accessing the service?

No

14. Does the way a service is delivered/ or the policy create any additional barriers for any groups of disabled people?

Potential to tailoring support and communications to vulnerable older people, and working with Wyre and the voluntary sector that supports older people. (Age UK, etc.)

15. Are any of these limitations or differences “substantial” and likely to amount to unlawful discrimination?

Yes  No  N/A

If yes, please explain (referring to relevant legislation) in the box below

N/A

16. If No, do they amount to a differential impact, which should be addressed?

Yes  No  N/A

If yes, please give details below.

N/A

#### STEP 4 - DEALING WITH ADVERSE OR UNLAWFUL IMPACT

17. What can be done to improve the policy, service, function or any proposals in order to reduce or remove any adverse impact or effects identified?

Potential to disaggregate neighbourhood statistics for the areas at high risk - and then tailor any communications accordingly.

18. What would be needed to be able to do this? Are the resources likely to be available?

Desk top study – yes.



19. What other support or changes would be necessary to carry out these actions?

None

#### **STEP 5 - CONSULTING THOSE AFFECTED FOR THEIR VIEWS**

20. What feedback or responses have you received to the findings and possible courses of action?  
Please give details below.

No specific feedback has been received on these issues at this stage but wider engagement of the flood action groups will be undertaken in due course.

21. If you have not been able to carry out any consultation, please indicate below how you intend to test out your findings and recommended actions.

N/A

#### **STEP 6 - ACTION PLANNING**

#### **STEP 7 - ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW**

As above

Date completed: 09/11/2022

Signed: JP Lovie

Name: John-Paul Lovie

Position: Head of Waste Policy & Partnerships

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<sup>i</sup> Environment Agency. (2009). Flooding in England: A National Assessment of Flood Risk. Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-in-england-national-assessment-of-flood-risk> [Access 01/11/2022].

<sup>ii</sup> Environment Agency (2018). Press Release: Climate change means more frequent flooding, warns Environment Agency. Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/climate-change-means-more-frequent-flooding-warns-environment-agency> [Accessed: 31/10/2022].