

Appendix 2 - Risk Register
Voluntarily adopting the socio-economic duty
As at: 02 February 2024

Risk ID	Risk Title	Opp / Threat	Risk Description	Risk Cause	Consequence	Date Raised	Gross Risk		Current Risk			Residual Risk		Risk Mitigation
							P	I	P	I	Score	P	I	
SED1	Robustness of Council decision making	Threat	Decisions are taken by the Council without properly taking into account all relevant socio-economic factors	A decision is taken that overwrites statutory responsibilities. Decision-makers do not have the expertise and data to make an informed decision. Adding in a requirement to take socio-economic factors into account each time a decision is made increases the burden on the decision-maker	Indecision or inappropriate decision making impacting on service delivery. Judicial Review. Council liability for paying compensation.	02.02.24	3	5	3	3	9	2	5	Robust mechanism in place for making sure that all decisions are made in the context of the relevant socio-economic factors. The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation. Sufficient resources need to be available to achieve a light touch implementation. Detailed implementation and action plan developed.
SED2	Change of government policy	Threat	New or changed legislation may invalidate assumptions upon which the activity is based.	Change in legislation and/ or law. A decision is taken that overwrites statutory responsibilities.	Indecision or inappropriate decision making impacting on service delivery. Risk of challenge to decision making.	02.02.24	3	2	3	2	6	3	2	Robust mechanism in place for making sure that all decisions are made in the context of the relevant socio-economic factors. The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation. Sufficient resources need to be available to achieve a light touch implementation. Detailed implementation and action plan developed.
SED3	Change of government policy	Opportunity	New or changed legislation may validate assumptions upon which the activity is based	Change in legislation and/ or law. It should be noted that the Labour Party nationally has stated it intends to implement the SED across English public services if it forms the next Government.	The Council could be advanced in its work/ progress for legislative implementation of socio-economic duty.	02.02.24	3	2	3	2	6	3	2	The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation.
SED4	Inadequate adoption of operational practices	Threat	Officers view implementation of socio-economic decision making as a 'tick' box' exercise.	Officers do not have the expertise and data to make an informed decision. Adding in a requirement to take socio-economic factors into account increases the burden on the officer.	Indecision or inappropriate decision making. Delay in decision making and/ or no decision made impacting service decision.	02.02.24	2	3	2	3	6	2	2	Robust mechanism in place for making sure that all decisions are made in the context of the relevant socio-economic factors. The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation. Sufficient resources available to achieve a light touch implementation. Detailed implementation and action plan developed.
SED8	Judicial Review	Threat	Potential risk of judicial review	A decision is taken that overwrites statutory responsibilities. If the Council is not taking all relevant factors into account nor making "reasonable" decisions. This risk arises if decisions are taken by the Council without properly taking into account all relevant socio-economic factors.	Delay in decision making and/ or no decision made impacting service decision. Council liability for paying compensation. Negative reputation/ media publicity.	02.02.24	3	5	3	3	9	2	5	The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation

SED9	Council decision to adopt the socio-economic duty is challenged	Threat	Adverse public opinion	<p>A decision is taken that overwrites statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>If the Council is not taking all relevant factors into account nor making "reasonable" decisions.</p> <p>Decisions are taken by the Council without properly taking into account all relevant socio-economic factors.</p>	<p>Delay in decision making and/ or no decision made impacting service decision.</p> <p>Judicial review.</p> <p>Negative reputation/ media publicity.</p>	02.02.24	1	5	1	4	4	1	4	<p>Robust mechanism in place for making sure that all decisions are made in the context of the relevant socio-economic factors.</p> <p>Sufficient resources available to achieve a light touch implementation.</p> <p>The Council's strategic approach to policy already has significant regard to promoting inclusion and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process already in place for policymaking provides an appropriate mechanism for SED implementation this.</p> <p>Detailed implementation and action plan developed.</p>
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