

# Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

Version 3.6 May 2017

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

**Completed by:** Mark Bleazard **Role:** Digital Services Manager

**Head of Service:** Rhys Cornwall **Date:** 20/12/19

**I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment**

**Yes / No**

**When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to**

[impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk](mailto:impact.assessments@newport.gov.uk)

## **1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.**

Public Building Wi-Fi "Community Cloud" - reductions in provision

Public building Wi-Fi provision has a budget of approximately £175k. The proposal aims to reduce costs by providing more cost effective technical solutions with minimal noticeable degradation of the service. In order to make further savings, a review of existing sites will be carried out and some sites will have the existing service removed as a result. Sites will be prioritised based on corporate plan priorities and levels of public use, mitigating the impact on protected characteristics, and geographical spread, however the current level of provision is not financially sustainable.

The review will take account of the type of customers using the current locations, in terms of protected characteristics.

## **2. Outline how you have/will consult with stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal. Please refer specifically to FEIA guidance in relation to relevant Welsh language duties.**

Sites affected will be contacted and asked about the impact of a potential removal of the service. The Gov Wi-Fi service is also available at a number of locations, which will minimise any impact.





<p><b>3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.</b></p> <p>A large amount of information is available in terms of usage of the existing service by site including the number of users, quantity of data downloaded, type of device accessed by etc. This information will be used with other factors such as site ownership, knowledge of site customers and alternative options to propose sites where the service may be removed. Customer data is available on age, gender and language preference and this will be considered in the review.</p>


#### 4. Equalities and Welsh language impact

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
<b>Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Ahead of the review it is thought that young people could be more affected than the general population as they are sometimes more reliant on public Wi-Fi having lower mobile data access.</p> <p>This is likely to be site dependent so the review will consider data on age and who is using particular sites.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	More data and consultation feedback needed to understand the impact on this group.
<b>Gender reassignment/ transgender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact.

<b>Marriage or civil partnership</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact
<b>Pregnancy or maternity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact
<b>Race</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some locations are more heavily used by BAME residents. Whilst this does not mean that the BAME populations are more likely to be affected it is possible they could be more severely affected by the proposal e.g. if they are less likely to have access to internet at home or through mobile data.
<b>Religion or Belief or non-belief</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion is not regarded as being a significant factor in terms of equality impact, with race being more directly relevant.
<b>Sex</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact although usage data will be reviewed.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact
<b>Welsh Language</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No expected differential impact

## 5 How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable development principle in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p>This proposal is primarily driven by the need to make budget savings to ensure the financial sustainability of free Wi-Fi provision in locations across the city and a wider contribution to meeting pressures on Council services.</p> <p>Advances in mobile technology mean that the provision of public Wi-Fi is becoming less significant with improving mobile coverage and increasing data allowances for users.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The current service includes non Newport City Council sites that benefit from economies of scale. Potentially sites could contribute to the cost of the solution to maintain the service and continue with provision at a cost less than if procured separately.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Affected users will be consulted for their views and the potential impact to them of a removal of service. This will also involve other organisations who benefit from the service currently.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Newport generally has good 4G mobile data coverage and as such there is less dependence on public Wi-Fi. Usage data shows that the public are using their own mobile data increasingly as costs decrease and allowances increase.</p> <p>This proposal is designed to minimise the impact of a reduced or removed service and it is anticipated that users will, in most cases, be able to use a different mechanism to access the internet.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p data-bbox="245 810 338 833">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="140 851 427 990">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="459 340 1362 483"><i>Whilst access to high-speed mobile internet is clearly important to wellbeing and economic growth, people are becoming less dependent on public WiFi, as personal data costs decrease.</i></p> <p data-bbox="459 524 1369 703"><i>The proposal aims to ensure continuity of provision across the city focussing on Council owned buildings. The review will seek to identify locations where impacts on protected groups could be significant and mitigation needs to be considered.</i></p> <p data-bbox="459 779 724 815"><b>Well-being Goals</b></p> <ul data-bbox="459 819 1219 1093" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A prosperous Wales</i></li> <li>• <i>A resilient Wales</i></li> <li>• <i>A healthier Wales</i></li> <li>• <i>A more equal Wales</i></li> <li>• <i>A Wales of more cohesive communities</i></li> <li>• <i>A Wales of vibrant culture an thriving Welsh Language</i></li> <li>• <i>A globally responsible Wales</i></li> </ul> <p data-bbox="459 1137 1059 1173"><b>Newport City Council Well-being Goals</b></p> <ul data-bbox="459 1178 1331 1388" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment</i></li> <li>• <i>To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient</i></li> <li>• <i>To build cohesive and sustainable communities</i></li> </ul>

## 6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?

Geographical coverage of public Wi-Fi will be considered as part of the review to ensure mitigation where services are withdrawn

## 7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission

Parameter 1 – the proposal seeks to identify which groups are most affected by reduction/withdrawal of these services as it is understood that the impact is likely to be differential, despite this being a universally accessible service.

Parameter 2 – Public Wi-Fi is not a statutory service and has been provided by the Council following the ending of UK Government funding. Whilst the benefits of public Wi-Fi are acknowledged it is evident that a growing proportion of the population are willing to pay for their own mobile data. This may mean that a smaller number of people are dependent on free public Wi-Fi and this review will seek to better understand and meet that need.

Parameter 3 – Wi-Fi in public buildings encourages some people to use those buildings as service therein. This promotes positive participation in community life and supports economic inclusion.

Parameter 4 – Consultation with stakeholders will inform this review and the FEIA will help ensure that impacts on protected groups are reflected in decision making.

## 8. Equality Impacts and Actions

Please complete the below action plan which sets out steps that will/will not be taken in order to mitigate any negative impacts that your assessment has identified.

Impact identified	Who does it affect?	What will you do to mitigate the impact? If you plan to take no action, please justify your rationale	Who is responsible?
1 Users will no longer be able to access free public Wi-Fi at sites where the service is ended.	Potentially all users of the current service	Provide sufficient notice to enable an alternative provision to be provided and funded by the specific sites affected if required. Provide advice to sites on future requirements as necessary. Provide guidance on free Gov Wi-Fi service where available. Users are highly likely to be using mobile services when they are not using public Wi-Fi so will be able to use this in place of public Wi-Fi.	Digital Services Manager
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## 9. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

How and when will the impact of the proposal/ policy be monitored and reported on?

The likely impact will be identified by the usage information prior to the ending of any service at specific sites.

## 10. Involvement

Affected sites will be identified and advised of the proposed ending of the service. Along with other proposals, this proposal is available on the council's web site including the FEIA.

## 11. Summary of Impact (for inclusion in any report)

**Equality Act 2010 Welsh**

**Welsh Language**

**Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

**Parameters of Fairness**

