

# Scottish Borders Council



## Equality Impact Assessment

|     |                                      |   |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3.1 | <b>Title of Proposal:</b>            | ePlanning Scottish Government Portal Upgrade  |
| 3.2 | <b>Service Area:<br/>Department:</b> | Place   |
| 3.3 | <b>Description:</b>                  | <p>The Scottish Government introduced an upgraded Portal through which the public could submit Planning applications. This went live on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and we at Scottish Borders Council have run a project to ensure we could connect with the new portal and be able to receive planning applications from the public electronically.</p> <p>In summary there was no change for the public in relation to this piece of work as a portal already existed and has been in place for 6 years. This was only an upgrade to the Government portal which necessitated some upgrading of our internal software applications and the installation of “cloud” connectors to allow us to receive applications via the upgraded national portal.</p> <p>Paper applications are still acceptable and therefore there is no impact on the public from this work.</p> |

|  |                                |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 3.4                                    | <b>Impact Assessment</b>       |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
|  | <b>Equality Characteristic</b> | <b>Impact</b>    |                        |                        | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Mitigation &amp; Recommendations</b> |
|  |                                | <b>No Impact</b> | <b>Positive Impact</b> | <b>Negative Impact</b> |  |   |
|  | Age                            | X                |                        |                        | The process for applying remains exactly the same for the public and has no impact on any of the characteristics named opposite. No mechanisms for applying have been altered or withdrawn in any way. |   |
| Disability                             | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Gender                                 | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Race Groups                            | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| People with Religious or other beliefs | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Sexual Orientation                     | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Carers                                 | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Poverty                                | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |
| Employees                              | X                              |                  |                        |                        |  |   |

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 3.5 | <b>Relevance to the Equality Duty in Summary:</b>  |   |
|     | <b>Equality Duty</b>   | <b>Reasoning:</b>   |
|     | <b>Elimination of discrimination (both direct &amp; indirect), victimisation and harassment.</b> | The proposal is completely neutral as it does not change the planning application process for the public. |
|     | <b>Promotion of equality of opportunity?</b>   | The proposal is completely neutral as it does not change the planning application process for the public. |
|     | <b>Foster good relations?</b>  | The proposal is completely neutral as it does not change the planning application process for the public. |

|     |   |  |                        |
|-----|---|--|------------------------|
| 3.6 | <b>Recommendations &amp; Mitigation</b> |  |                        |
|     | <b>Characteristic</b>                   | <b>Mitigation/Recommendation</b>   | <b>Approved Yes/No</b> |
|     |   | The application of the usage of the portal will be monitored and reviewed within 18 months of its introduction in order to ensure that the option remains a positive addition when submitting planning applications. | Yes                    |

|                   |                  |              |                            |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Signed Off</b> |                  |              |                            |
| Name:             | Brian Frater     | Directorate: | Regulatory Services        |
| Post:             | Service Director | Date:        | 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 |

| <b>Name/Post:</b>                                      | <b>Service Area:</b>     | <b>Date</b> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| Graeme Dobson - Project Manager                        | Corporate Transformation | 27/05/2016  |
| Caroline Law - Registration / Administration Assistant | Place                    |             |
| Julie Kerr – Systems Administration Assets Officer     | Chief Execs              |             |
| Stephen Wemyss - Systems Administration Assets Officer | Chief Execs              |             |
| Norman Halcrow – Business Systems Officer              | Chief Execs              |             |
| Ian Aikman – Chief Planning Officer                    | Place                    |             |
| Gavin Innes – Infrastructure Delivery Manager          | Chief Execs              |             |