

Appendix 5 - Equality Impact Assessment of the Ipswich Borough Council Local Validation List

What is the report trying to achieve?

The Local Validation List outlines the specific information and supporting documentation required when submitting a planning application within the Borough. It ensures that applications are complete and contain the necessary detail to allow planning officers to carry out a thorough and timely assessment.

Adhering to the list reduces delays and invalid submissions, improving the efficiency of the planning process. Regular updates reflect the Council's commitment to a high-quality and responsive development management service.

This report seeks authorisation to adopt the Local Validation List.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis?

- Published data, such as the 2021 Census
- The Suffolk Observatory
- Ipswich Borough Council's Local Plan Equality Impact Assessment (2022)

What is proposed?

The report seeks authorisation to adopt the Ipswich Borough Council Local Validation List.

Why are changes being introduced?

Paragraph 45 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024 states that local planning authorities should publish a list of information requirements for planning applications. These requirements should be kept to the minimum necessary to make decisions and should be reviewed at least every two years.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?

Evidence includes:

- The Equality Impact Assessment for the adopted Ipswich Local Plan (2022)
- Demographic data from the Suffolk Observatory
- Internal review of recent consultation feedback and validation performance data

This evidence has been used to assess whether the Local Validation List would disproportionately affect any individuals or groups with protected characteristics.

How will this change be implemented?

This report seeks authorisation to adopt the Local Validation List.

Is there potential for positive or negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics below?

Protected Characteristics	Impact	Explanation

Age	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Disability	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Race	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Religion or Belief	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Gender Reassignment	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Sex	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.
Sexual Orientation	No impact	The Local Validation List would not impact this group differently from others.

Does the report meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives?

Yes. The report supports the Council's equality objectives in the following ways:

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation
By ensuring that all applicants, regardless of background, are provided with clear, consistent, and fair guidance on validation requirements.
- Advances equality of opportunity
By making validation requirements transparent and accessible, reducing the risk of applications being delayed or invalidated due to unclear processes.
- Fosters good relations
By applying a consistent and inclusive approach to all applicants, the process supports trust, confidence, and engagement with the planning system.

How will the new provisions be reviewed?

The effectiveness of the Ipswich Local Validation List will be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report, which is published annually. This report assesses planning application performance, the implementation of Local Plan policies, and associated procedural guidance, including the validation process.