

Due Regard Record

Name of policy or activity:

What this record is for:

By law the Council must, in the course of its service delivery and decision making, think about and see if it can eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. This active consideration is known as, 'paying due regard', and it must be recorded as evidence. We pay due regard by undertaking equality analysis and using what we learn through this analysis in our service delivery and decision making. The purpose of this form is as a log of evidence of due regard.

When do I use this record?

Every time you complete equality analysis on a policy or activity this record must be updated. Due regard must be paid, and therefore equality analysis undertaken, at 'formative stages' of policies and activities including proposed changes to or withdrawal of services. This record must be included as an appendix to any report to decision making bodies. Agenda Planning Groups will not accept any report which does not include evidence of due regard being paid via completion of an Equality Analysis Report.

How do I use this record:

When you next undertake equality analysis open a Due Regard Record. Use it to record a summary of your analysis, including the reason for the analysis, the evidence considered, what the evidence told you about the protected groups, and the key findings from the analysis. This will be key information from Steps 1-7 of the Equality Analysis process set out in the Toolkit, and your Equality Analysis Report. This Due Regard Record is Step 8 of that process.

Date / Name	Summary of Equality Analysis
2 December 2013	The report concerns changes that the Government is making to several aspects of energy consumption in the home, and how the Council is intended to respond differently in respect of such issues. Perhaps at the heart of this is a concern for those who are in fuel poverty; put simply those who are spending a high portion of their income on keeping themselves warm, are recognised as needing help and support. This involves the Council, and other partners, taking actions to make the properties which are occupied more energy efficient. This must be set against a background of energy costs which have risen very steeply for all sections of the community. Whilst the Government appears to be expecting the Council to put more efforts into reporting the many actions it is involved in, that does not necessarily translate into a lowering of the numbers of those whom are in fuel poverty, when the costs do not appear to be rising in a managed way. The Government has heralded a new definition of fuel poverty which would take into account both the extent of the issue and its depth. Possibly the real equality impact assessment must be that undertaken by the Government rather than by this Council.