Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	• 18% of Torbay residents are aged under 18 years old. • 55% of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. • 27% of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Carers	• At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8

	• 5,185 of these carers provided 50 hours or more of care.	Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	accordance with the Council's equality duties.	December 2026.
Care experienced	• As of January 2026, there were 277 former care experienced young people aged 18-24 in Torbay.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Disability	• In the 2021 Census, 23.9% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8

	mental health condition or illness.	Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	accordance with the Council's equality duties.	December 2026.
Gender reassignment	• In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Marriage and civil partnership	• Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation

	people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	date of 8 December 2026.
Pregnancy and maternity	• Between 2013 and 2024, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 56.0 per 1,000) than the Southwest (53.4) and broadly in line with England (56.3). • For the period 2022 to 2024, rates in Torbay (44.6) have been significantly below England (50.0).	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as the following: • 1.6% as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications,	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8

	• 0.3% as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African • 1.5% as being of Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups • 96.1% as White • 0.4% described their ethnicity another way. • Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	accordance with the Council's equality duties.	December 2026.
Religion and belief	The 2021 Census showed that the residents in Torbay identify their religion and/or belief as the following; • 48.5% are Christian • 0.4% are Buddist • 0.2% are Hindu • 0.6% are Muslim • Less than 0.1% are Sikh • 0.1% are Jewish • 0.7% have another religion • 43.2% have no religion • 6.3% did not answer	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Sex	• 51.3% of Torbay's population are female.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance	Planning Service. Ongoing from

	• 48.7% of Torbay's population are male.	through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, residents described their sexuality as follows; • 89% as Straight or Heterosexual • 1.7% as Gay or Lesbian • 1.1% as Bisexual • 0.1% as Pansexual • 0.1% described their sexuality another way • 7.4% of people didn't answer the question	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	Planning Service. Ongoing from implementation date of 8 December 2026.
Armed Forces Community	• In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces.	There is no differential impact identified. The revised planning application fees are set nationally through the Town and Country	Continue to provide planning information and application guidance through accessible	

	• In Torbay, 5.9% of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 and apply equally to all applicants regardless of protected characteristic. The proposal does not alter eligibility, assessment processes or decision-making criteria for planning applications.	channels and in accordance with the Council's equality duties.	
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)	• Torbay is ranked as the 39th most deprived upper tier local authority in England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025.	The increase in planning application fees may result in a modest additional cost for applicants seeking planning permission. However, the fees are nationally prescribed and apply consistently across England. The increases are not expected to have a significant disproportionate impact on any particular socio-economic group.		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)	• For the five-year period 2020 to 2024, data shows there is a 6-year life expectancy gap between males who live in Torbay's least and most deprived areas and, a 3-year gap for females.	No direct public health impacts have been identified. The decision relates solely to the administration of planning application fees.		

Human Rights impacts		No human rights impacts have been identified. The proposal implements statutory national fee changes and does not affect individuals' rights of access to the planning system.		
Child Friendly		No direct impacts on children and young people have been identified. The fee changes apply to planning applications and do not alter services provided to children and young people.		