

Item 6 - Draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20

In appendix C, the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment, pages 67 - 84, there are a number of areas where the policy does not meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements. This is a matter of concern and shows that more work is needed. To take one example, on page 74: potential impact on other groups, which includes rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities. These are some of the most vulnerable groups in society, and the Cabinet should not underestimate the potentially disproportionate impact of any loss of public services on these people. In some cases the impact may be so significant as to render it impractical to mitigate against the changes. The Cabinet should make sure it is fully aware of the impact of its decisions and not try to push changes through, on the basis that any mitigation will at least be acceptable to the majority. Service changes which unavoidably add to, and through cumulative impact, entrench, deprivation and rural isolation should be scrupulously resisted.

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