

Equality Impact Assessment Form

A copy of this form is available on the Intranet.

Screening

Name of strategy, project or policy:

Empty Properties Policy Statement and Action Plan

Officer completing assessment:

George Graham

Telephone:

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1. What is the main purpose of the strategy, project or policy?

To set out proposals for coordinated action across the Council to deal with empty property issues.
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2. List the main activities of the project, policy (for strategies list the main policy areas)

Inducements to owners and developers to bring empty properties into use, through existing grant and loan schemes.
Incentives to bring properties back into use through changes in planning policy and policy in relation to Council Tax discounts for long term empty property.
Enforcement through full use of the Council's powers under s 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act and Empty Dwelling Management Orders under the Housing Act 2004.

3. Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy, project or policy?

The objectives of the Policy Statement and Action Plan are to improve the environment and increase available housing supply without new build. Thus there will be an impact on quality of life across the entire population, although this may be differential depending upon economic circumstances.

4. Use the table below to tick:

- (a) Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- (b) Where you think that the strategy, project, policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relations within equality target groups.

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
Gender	Women			
	Men			
Race	Asian or Asian British people	X		Families in this group tend to be disproportionately represented amongst those on lower incomes thus an increase in the supply of affordable housing may be beneficial
	Black or black British people	X		Families in this group tend to be disproportionately represented amongst those on lower incomes thus an increase in the supply of

				affordable housing may be beneficial
	People of mixed race			
	Irish people			
	White people			
	Chinese people and other minority ethnic communities not listed above			
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health			
Sexuality	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			
Gender Identity	Transgender people			
Age	Older people (60+)			
	Younger people (17-25), and children	X		One objective set out in the policy statement is to bring some empty properties back into use as temporary accommodation. The need for such accommodation is disproportionately greater among the younger age group. In addition the use of empty properties to increase the supply of affordable housing will impact positively on this group who have the most significant affordability issues.

Belief	Faith groups *			
Equal opportunities and/or improved relations eg Rural				

Notes:

* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

5 If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:

Legal? YES NO N/a

(i.e. it is not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation)

Intended? YES NO

Level of impact HIGH LOW

If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.

6 a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?

Explain how:

N/a

a) Could you improve the strategy, project or policy's positive impact?

Explain how:

The more housing units that are brought back into use the greater the positive impacts are likely to be. However, this is constrained by the resources available to the Council, its partner Registered Social Landlords and the ability to encourage developers to get involved in tackling empty properties.

You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section two.

7 If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does?

How?

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send one copy to the Head of Human Resources.

Signed:George Graham.....

Date:17th October 2006.....

