EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – STAGE 1

EIA Ref	**C/12/40**	
Lead Officer	Name	**Jo Sutton**
	Position	**Principal Policy Officer (Housing)**
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SECTION 1 –Context & Background

1.1 What is the title of the policy / practice?

Housing Assistance Policy 2012 - 2017

1.2 What is the current status of the policy / practice?

Existing Changed New √

1.3 What are the principal aims and intended outcomes of the policy / practice?

The development of a policy setting out how the Council intends to use its powers to provide financial assistance for housing renewal is a statutory requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002.The principal aim of the policy is to target financial assistance (where it is available) to those who need it most and to inform potential customers of the eligibility criteria for different forms of financial assistance and how to apply.

1.4 Who has primary responsibility for delivering the policy / practice?

The Halton Home Improvement and Independent Living Service (correct at March 2012) is responsible for delivering the policy.

1.5 Who are the main stakeholders?

The main stakeholders are those seeking financial assistance to refurbish or adapt their existing home. The policy primarily relates to owner occupiers and private tenants, although there is some financial assistance available for Housing Association Tenants.

1.6 Who is the policy / practice intended to affect?

Residents √ Staff Specific Group(s) √ (add details below)

The policy is intended for those eligible for financial assistance e.g. people on means tested benefits, disabled people requiring adaption etc.

1.7 Are there any other related policies / practices?

Halton's Housing Strategy; Major Adaptions Policy

SECTION 2 – Consideration of Impact

2.1 Relevance: – the Public Sector Equality Duty

Does this policy / practice / service have due regard to the need to: -

(a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
(b) Advance equality of opportunity between two persons who share a relevant protected characteristic
(c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Yes (√) **No** ( )
State reasons below

(Relevance to service users/staff) Involves positive action for some protected groups

2.2 Has data and information has been used in determining the impact of the policy / procedure under review?

Equality Group(s)	All

Baseline data and information
E.g. Private Sector Stock Condition Survey, owner occupier information, demographic data

2.3 On the basis of evidence, has the actual / potential impact of the policy/ practice been judged to be positive (+), neutral (=) or negative (-) for each of the equality groups and in what way? Is the level of impact judged to be high (H), medium ((M), or Low (L)?

Protected Characteristic	Impact type +, =, -	Level H, M. L, -	Nature of impact
Age	= 1	/	1 Policy recognises there will inevitably be a larger proportion of older people who may be eligible for assistance.
Disability	+	H	The policy gives priority for home improvement loans to those who are having adaptations completed with the help of a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant. Relocation Assistance is available for disabled people who need to move to a property that is suitable for adaptation.
Gender	=	/	Policy contains eligibility criteria

Race / ethnicity	=	/	based on need but this does not cause negative impact on other groups
Religion / belief	=	/	
Sexual Orientation	=	/	
Transgender	=	/	
Marital status/ Civil Partnerships	=	/	
Pregnancy/Maternity	=	/	
In Halton two further vulnerable groups have been identified: -			
Carers	+	M	The provision of Disabled Facilities Grants is likely to have a positive impact on those who care for disabled people.
Socio – economic disadvantage	+	H	Second priority for Home Improvement Loans is given to people receiving means tested benefits. There are provisions for wavering or reducing loan repayments based on financial hardship. NB other than DFGs where disabled children are involved all financial assistance is means tested.

2.4 Does the policy / practice have any potential impact upon safeguarding vulnerable people?

Potential impact if inadequate housing needs are not addressed.

2.5 How will the impact of the policy / practice be monitored?

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual return)

2.6 Who will be responsible for monitoring?

Commissioning Manager (Housing)

2.7 If any negative impacts, or potential negative impacts, have been identified what mitigating actions will be put in place, thereby eliminating the need for a further Stage 2 assessment.
Where none have been identified insert 'no further action required' in the first column

Action & purpose / outcome	Priority	Timeframe	Lead Officer
No further action required	*(H, M, L)*		

2.8 Summary of stakeholders involved in this review

Job Title or Name	Organisation / representative of
Jo Sutton, Principal Policy Officer - Housing Les Unsworth, Policy Officer (Corporate & Organisational)	Halton BC Halton BC

2.9 Completion Statement

As the identified Lead Officer of this review I confirm that:- No negative impact has been identified for one or more equality groups and that a Stage 2 Assessment is not required √

Signed: J Sutton	**Date: 11th April 2012**

Completed EIAs should be sent to Les Unsworth, Corporate and Organisational Policy, to be given a unique reference number and for inclusion on the central register.