

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – STAGE 1

EIA Ref	C/13/64	
Lead Officer	Name	
	Position	
	Contact details	

SECTION 1 –Context & Background

1.1 What is the title of the policy/practice?

The Housing Strategy 2013/2018

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?

Describes the problems and challenges facing Halton's housing market and sets out the Council's priorities for new housing by type and tenure, and what it will do to facilitate new supply. It also articulates how it will seek to improve the quality of the private rented sector offer and improve housing choice.
See embedded action plan.



GHousing Strategy
2013 2018 Action Plan

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

Responsibility rests with the Council's Communities Directorate.

1.5 Who are the main stakeholders?

Stakeholders include the Homes and Communities Agency, Registered Providers of social housing, developers and the public generally.

1.6 Who is the policy/practice intended to affect?

Residents ☒

Staff ☒

Specific Group(s) ☒

(add details below)

The policy is relevant to all those identified earlier as stakeholders.

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1.7 Are there any other related policies/practices?

The Core Strategy is relevant in articulating the standards to be achieved in new housing, the overall housing supply targets, the affordable housing policy and land availability.

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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)

Promotes positive action for certain potentially vulnerable groups in order to create equality of access to suitable housing.

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

(for example research, surveys, complaints, consultation, , monitoring data)

Equality Group(s)	The provision of supported housing for potentially vulnerable groups e.g. older people, and those with learning or physical disabilities will positively impact on Age, Disability and Socio Economic Disadvantage. The provision of general needs social housing will positively impact on Socio Economic Disadvantage.
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Baseline data and information

Demographic data from ONS/census.

Nature of impact and where there is positive justification

The intended impact of increasing the provision of supported housing for older people and those with learning or physical disabilities is to improve their quality of life and improve their health and well being.

Whilst this may reduce the proportion of houses built for other groups this is considered justifiable in that existing opportunities for such groups to access affordable, safe and secure accommodation are disproportionately low in comparison to other groups.

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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	+	L	Ref 2.2 above
Disability	+	L	Ref 2.2 above
Gender	=	/	
Race/ethnicity	=	/	
Religion / belief	=	/	
Sexual Orientation	=	/	
Transgender	=	/	
Marital status/ Civil Partnerships	=	/	
Pregnancy/Maternity	=	/	
In Halton two further vulnerable groups have been identified: -			
Carers	=	/	
Socio – economic disadvantage	+	+	Ref 2.2 above

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

One aspect of the strategy is concerned with increasing the provision of supported housing for potentially vulnerable groups e.g. older people and those with learning or physical disabilities. The provision of housing by RPs, with care and support commissioned by the Council, will have a positive impact.

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

By reporting progress in delivering the targets set out in the action plan.

2.6 Who will be responsible for monitoring?

Progress reports to SMT, the Housing Partnership and Halton Boards.

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.			

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2.8 Summary of stakeholders involved in this review

Name / Job Title	Organisation/representative of
Steve Williams, Commissioning Manager	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 which cannot be mitigated at this stage and that a Stage 2 Assessment is not required
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Signed: Steve Williams

Date: August 2013

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.

Public Sector Equality Duty – EIA Checklist

The Equality Act s149 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) requires is that HBC has due regard to the need to:-

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

These are matters that we must show we have taken into the reckoning in making decisions about the Council's functions. We therefore need evidence of the following:

1. We know about the duty
2. We have reflected on the duty
3. We have consulted those affected or likely to be affected
4. We have used relevant information already in the council's possession (surveys etc.)
5. We have allowed adequate time for consultation with those affected and/or those who speak for those affected
6. We have allowed adequate time for earnest and genuine consideration of the information and views received
7. We have identified any adverse effects
8. We have sought to mitigate any adverse effects of decisions
9. We have identified principal options
10. Decision makers have not made up their mind in advance
11. We have considered all material considerations including our own financial situation, policy and strategy documents alongside along views received from consultees but have not applied those policies etc. In a rigid or unthinking way.