

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – INITIAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (IST)

Initial screening needs to take place for all new/revised Council policies. The word ‘policy’, in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an EIA for this activity.

Name of Policy:	Draft Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy 2022
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Senior Environmental Health Officer
Department:	Environmental Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Environmental Services Manager
Date Initial Screening Completed:	19 th August 2022

- (a) **What is the policy trying to achieve?** i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

The Private Sector Housing Renewal policy has been updated to include changes to related policies and information obtained from the Housing Stock Model Survey undertaken in 2021. The council must have policies in place to demonstrate how it will address housing disrepair and poor conditions in the housing stock to ensure resources are targeted at those most in need.

The key objectives of this policy are to:

- Enable the elderly, vulnerable and disabled people to live in comfort and security in their homes.
- Increase the proportion of private sector housing that is of a decent standard, with a focus on those that are occupied by vulnerable households.
- To reduce fuel poverty.
- To support initiatives to bring long term empty homes back into use.
- To provide accessible information to the public to enable them to obtain assistance and advice on all matters around housing disrepair and energy efficiency.

The draft is being submitted to the Operational Services Committee on 12th Sept 2022

- (b) **Who are its main beneficiaries?** i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

Residential property owners and private sector tenants.

- (c) **Is this assessment informed by any information or background data?** i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

The Council must conform to statutory functions.

It must regularly assess the condition of the housing stock and introduce policies to support people to maintain their homes, to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock and to deal with unsafe housing conditions.

The draft policy has been prepared having regard to East Cambridgeshire Equality framework.

- (d) Does this policy have the potential to cause a positive or negative impact on different groups in the community, on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics (please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caring Responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain any impact identified: i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers to accessing the policy or service?

This is an updated policy document.

The draft policy supports the work undertaken by Environmental Health in addressing poor standard housing and energy efficiency in both the private rented and owner-occupied sector, and supports the existing East Cambs Housing Adaptations and repairs Policy 2019 which aims to have a positive impact on vulnerable groups by providing assistance to those most vulnerable either due to age or disability and others most in need. The aim of the Housing Renewal policy is to have a positive effect on all service users.

Age

Officer will need to evaluate cases and deal with these especially sensitively where necessary. Officers will also use the policy and feed into other appropriate groups where necessary i.e. Age UK, Safe and Well schemes etc to ensure the best outcome for the occupant.

Disability

These cases again will need to be evaluated appropriately with assistance provided depending on individual requirements, to achieve the best outcome for the occupier, linking with other support organisations as required.

Ethnicity

Where English is not be the first language of the occupier, landlord or tenant, translation services may be required and can be provided. Letters etc. can also be provided in the appropriate language where necessary. Utilise links with other support mechanisms for example the partnership working of the Housing Team with the Rosmini Centre, that works closely with foreign migrants.

- (e) Does the policy affect service users or the wider community?
- (f) Does the policy have a significant effect on how services are delivered?
- (g) Will it have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?
- (h) Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?
- (i) Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities, e.g. disabled people's access to public transport etc?

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment (EIA). If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service and then referred to the

Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:

Completing Officer: Karen See **Date:** 19th August 2022

Head of Service: _____ **Date:** _____