

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT FORM - the initial screening process

SERVICE AREA: STRATEGIC HOUSING – Delivery of the Affordable Housing Programme.

DESCRIBE THE SERVICE AREA BEING ASSESSED: From the starting point of a comprehensive understanding of Babergh’s housing market and the housing needs of the district, a 5-year programme of affordable housing development is devised. This will include delivery from planning obligations, rural exceptions sites, Babergh-owned land and regeneration, and RSL schemes.

Please indicate if it is an existing area of service or a new area/project: Existing

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Age	The housing needs of older people are dealt with through the delivery of bungalow accommodation and sheltered and very sheltered housing.	Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.	No	N/A

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Belief or faith	No	No	<p>Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.</p> <p>The housing needs of those with particular beliefs or faith needs are not dealt with due to a lack of identified need.</p> <p>Our affordable housing programme does not seek to deliver affordable housing for those with particular beliefs or faiths.</p> <p>This may have a negative impact on the housing needs of those with specific belief or faith needs.</p>	Low

Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i>	Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i>	Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i>	Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i>	If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i>
Disability	<p>Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.</p> <p>The housing needs of those with physical or mental health needs are tackled within the affordable housing programme.</p> <p>This takes the form of specifically designed independent or supported housing.</p>	No	No	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No.	No	Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.	Low

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			<p>The housing needs of those with a particular sexual orientation have not been identified as part of our needs assessment process. Therefore no specific action has been taken regarding this group of the community.</p> <p>Our affordable housing programme does not seek to deliver affordable housing for those with particular sexual orientation.</p> <p>This may have a negative impact on the housing needs of those with a particular sexual orientation.</p> <p>Future surveys need to seek to identify the needs of this group.</p>	
Gender	No	No	Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.	Low

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			<p>The housing needs of those with a desire to reside in a particular gender group have not been identified as part of our needs assessment process. Therefore no specific action has been taken regarding this group of the community.</p> <p>Our affordable housing programme does not seek to deliver affordable housing for those wishing to reside within a particular agenda group.</p> <p>This may have a negative impact on the housing needs of those wishing to reside within a particular gender group.</p>	
Race	No	Once a need is identified affordable housing must be developed to meet the specific housing needs of particular groups within the local community.	Rural Exception Site schemes and Babergh's Local Needs Housing allocation policy will positively discriminate against Housing Register applicants who do not meet the local connection criteria for specific local needs housing schemes.	

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		The housing needs of particular ethnic groups have been considered but no need has been identified.	This may have a negative impact on the housing needs of housing applicants who do not meet the local connection qualifying criteria.	Low

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IF ANY AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LOW LEVEL NEGATIVE IMPACT

IS THE IMPACT LIKELY TO CHANGE OVER TIME?

Yes	X	No	
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IF YES, HOW WILL THE IMPACT CHANGE?

At present the impact is low.
With rapidly changing demographics in the district and region as a whole the impact will be higher over time.
Therefore, all the target equality groups need to be given the opportunity to highlight their housing requirements with the Council, and where a sufficient housing need is identified appropriate affordable housing schemes can be included within the Council's affordable housing programme.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE OR REMOVE ANY *UNINTENDED* NEGATIVE IMPACT?

Ensure a better understanding of the housing needs of the target equality groups and identified needs are developed into appropriate affordable housing schemes, through the Council's affordable housing programme.

HOW COULD YOU MONITOR THIS WORK?

Annual reports to the Housing Panel, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Equality Group.

IF YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED ANY AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF NEGATIVE IMPACT IS HIGH PLEASE REFER TO YOUR HEAD OF SERVICE PRIOR TO COMPLETING A STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT FORM

Signed: Ian TippettService Manager undertaking the Assessment.

Date: 15 August 2008.....