

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Introduction

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a method for assessing the effects or impacts of a council policy or function on removing barriers to equality.

The Equality Act 2010 includes a public sector equality duty which requires public authorities to try and eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it and promote equality and good relations across a range of protected characteristics.

The protected characteristics are:

Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment
Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	Sex	Sexual orientation

An EqIA should be completed with the full range of protected characteristics considered during the initial stages of developing new strategies, policies, functions or services, prior to starting a procurement exercise and before decisions are made.

Examples of when an EqIA should be completed are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any proposals to introduce or add to a service</li></ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any proposals to adopt policy priorities, strategies and plans</li></ul>                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any proposals to remove, reduce or alter a service</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Changes to staffing structure where groups of employees are likely to be negatively affected</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any new policies or changes to policies</li></ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any proposals in relation to procured or commissioned services</li></ul>                               |

## Stage 1 - Equality Screening

Whenever a policy/service or function is reviewed, changed, developed or removed an initial equality impact assessment stage 1 will need to be undertaken. This is a screening template and will help establish whether a full assessment is needed. This should be done at an early stage of the process so that it is part of policy development.

## Stage 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

This is the full EqIA and seeks to identify the equality considerations that have been taken into account including any mitigating actions proposed and ensures decisions are based on evidence. The EqIA will need to be agreed with the appropriate Head of Service or Director and should be included on the decision making report, along with commentary on the assessment in the main body of the report.

## STAGE 1 – Equality Screening

### 1. Identify the policy, project, function or service change

#### a. Person responsible for this EqIA

Officer responsible: Matt Ward

Service Area: Housing Services

Title: Head of Housing Services

Date of assessment: 06 November 2025

Signature:



#### b. Is this a policy, function, strategy, service change or project?

Policy

If other, please specify:

#### c. Name of the policy, function, strategy, service change or project

Empty Homes (Voids) Policy

Is this new or existing?

New or proposed

#### Please specify reason for change or development of policy, function, strategy, service change or project

The policy has been developed to review and formally capture the existing internal Empty Homes (Voids) process to tenants.

#### d. What are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes and who is likely to benefit from it?

Aims:

The policy formally sets out Cheltenham Borough Council's approach to managing empty homes (void properties).

Objectives:

The purpose of the policy is to:

- a) Set out the principles and service standards of void management to ensure efficient turnaround and minimise rental loss.
- b) help to meet housing need by maximizing the availability of our housing stock; and
- c) make best use of housing stock with special characteristics and assist downsizers.

Outcomes:

The outcomes of this policy are to:

- Make the process transparent to tenants
- Minimise the time properties remain void.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure properties meet the “Fit to Rent” standards before re-letting.</li> <li>• Reduce financial loss from empty properties.</li> <li>• Improve customer satisfaction and housing availability.</li> <li>• Support strategic housing goals including homelessness prevention and affordable housing delivery.</li> </ul>
Benefits:	In addition to the expected outcomes, Cheltenham Borough Council tenants will also understand their rights as a tenant and the Empty Homes (Voids) process and standard.

#### e. What are the expected impacts?

Are there any aspects, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could have an impact on the lives of people, including employees and customers.

**No**

Do you expect the impacts to be positive or negative?

**Positive**

Please provide an explanation for your answer:

The Empty Homes (Voids) Policy will improve Cheltenham Borough Council's management of managing its empty homes leading to a better and more efficient use of its assets.

**If your answer to question e identified potential positive or negative impacts, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.**

#### f. Identify next steps as appropriate

Stage Two required

**No**

Owner of Stage Two assessment

Completion date for Stage Two assessment

**Please forward this completed form to [add email address] and move on to Stage 2 if required.**

## STAGE 2 – Full Equality Impact Assessment

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### 2. Engagement and consultation

The best approach to find out if a policy etc, is likely to impact positively or negatively on equality groups is to look at existing research, previous consultation recommendations, studies or consult with representatives of those equality groups.

#### a. Research and evidence

List below any data, consultations (previous, relevant, or future planned), or any relevant research, studies or analysis that you have considered to assess the policy, function, strategy, service change or project for its relevance to equality.

Best practice

A review of the existing Empty Homes Process/Procedure

#### b. Consultation

Has any consultation be conducted?

Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have conducted or are intending to conduct. Describe who was consulted, what the outcome of the activity was and how these results have influenced the development of the strategy, policy, project, service change or budget option.

If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

The Policy has been seen and reviewed by a group of Cheltenham Borough Council tenants.

### 3. Assessment

#### a. Assessment of impacts

For each characteristic, please indicate the type of impact (positive – contributes to promoting equality or improving relations within an equality group, neutral – no impact, negative – could disadvantage them).

Please use the description of impact box to explain how you justify the impact and include any data and evidence that you have collected from surveys, performance data or complaints to support your proposed changes

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Protected Characteristic	Specific Characteristic	Impact	Description of impact	Mitigating Action
<b>AGE</b>	Older people (60+)	Neutral		
	Younger People (16-25)	Neutral		
	Children (0-16)	Neutral		
<b>DISABILITY</b> A definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 is available <a href="#">here</a> .  <i>See also carer responsibilities under other considerations.</i>	Physical disability	Neutral		
	Sensory Impairment (sight, hearing)	Neutral		
	Mental health	Neutral		
	Learning Disability	Neutral		
<b>GENDER REASSIGNMENT</b>		Neutral		
<b>MARRIAGE &amp; CIVIL PARTNERSHIP</b>	Women	Neutral		
	Men	Neutral		
	Lesbians	Neutral		
	Gay Men	Neutral		
<b>PREGNANCY &amp; MATERNITY</b>	Women	Neutral		
<b>RACE*</b> Further information on the breakdown below each of these headings, is available <a href="#">here</a> .	White	Neutral		
	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	Neutral		
	Asian	Neutral		

For example Asian, includes Chinese, Pakistani and Indian etc	African	Neutral		
	Caribbean or Black	Neutral		
		Neutral		
<b>RELIGION &amp; BELIEF**</b> A list of religions used in the census is available <a href="#">here</a>	See note	Neutral		
<b>SEX (GENDER)</b>	Men	Neutral		
	Women	Neutral		
	Trans Men	Neutral		
	Trans Women			
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>	Heterosexual	Neutral		
	Lesbian	Neutral		
	Gay	Neutral		
	Bisexual/Pansexual	Neutral		
<b>Other considerations</b>				
<b>Socio-economic factors</b> (income, education, employment, community safety & social support)		Neutral		
<b>Rurality</b> i.e. access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband		Neutral		
<b>Other (e.g. caring responsibilities)</b>		Neutral		

\* To keep the form concise, race has not been included as an exhaustive list, please augment the list above where appropriate to reflect the complexity of other racial identities.

\*\* There are too many faith groups to provide a list, therefore, please input the faith group e.g. Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Hindus, etc. Consider the different faith groups individually when considering positive or negative impacts. A list of religions in the census is available [here](#)

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#### 4. Outcomes, Action and Public Reporting

a. Please list the actions identified through the evidence and the mitigating action to be taken.

Action	Target completion date	Lead Officer

b. Public reporting

All completed EqIA's are required to be publicly available on the Council's website once they have been signed off. EqIA's are also published with the papers for committee and full council decisions.

Please send completed EqIA's to [email address]

#### 5. Monitoring outcomes, evaluation and review

The Equalities Impact Assessment is not an end in itself but the start of a continuous monitoring and review process. The relevant Service or Lead Officer responsible for the delivery of the policy, function or service change is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the EqIA and any actions that may be taken to mitigate impacts.

Individual services are responsible for conducting the impact assessment for their area, staff from Corporate Policy and Governance will be available to provide support and guidance, please email xxxx if you have any questions.

#### 6. Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change