

# 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: Claire Hughes

Service Area: Housing Services

Title: Director of Governance, Housing and Communities

Date of assessment: 06/01/2026

Signature: *Claire Hughes*

#### 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

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) 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 demonstrate how the Council will comply with the Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025

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

Aims:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the Council's process for complying with Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025 is clearly set out.

Objectives:

The policy will:

- Set out how the council will ensure compliance with the Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025

Outcomes:

Tenants and staff will be aware of the processes followed by the council to ensure compliance with the Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2025

Benefits:

This policy should offer assurance to tenants that the council is meeting its legal obligations and is committed to dealing with hazards effectively.

Employees of the Council can utilise this policy to ensure correct processes are utilised.

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?	No impact expected
Please provide an explanation for your answer:	
This policy is equally applicable to all tenants.	

**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	