

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening Form



Screening determines whether the policy has any relevance for equality, ie is there any impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

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

1. Policy/service/function title	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024.
2. Lead officers (responsible for the policy/service/function)	Heather Tucker
3. Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024 is a 5-year review of the previous Homeless Strategy and incorporates a revision ensuring compliance with new Duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
4. What exactly is proposed? (Describe the policy/service/ function and the changes that are being planned?)	If policy / service or function changes are required as part of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeper Strategy, specific Equality Impact Assessment work will be carried out as that programme of work is developed.

<p>5. Why? (Give reasons why these changes are being introduced)</p>	<p>There is a legal requirement for the Councils to carry out a review of Homelessness in its Districts every five years and then formulate a strategy and associated action plan to detail how the Councils will continue to tackle homelessness issues over the next five years.</p>
<p>6. How will it be implemented? (Describe the decision- making process, timescales, process for implementation)</p>	<p>Summary of Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy development process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scoping / ideas / SLT Nov 2017 – Jan 2018 b. Political formal decision-making processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Overview and Scrutiny for process sign-off. July 2018 • Cabinet’s to comment on 1st draft, seek approval for next stage (6-week consultation): Revised timetable to accommodate revisions to the draft Homes strategy to enable us to consult on both Strategies at the same time: 6 week consultation from 26th October – 7th November 2018. Total 8 weeks. • Full Councils: Request adoption of both strategies: Scheduled for March 2019 c. Additional input from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial technical stakeholder workshop April 2018. • All Member briefings / workshops x 2; June and November 2018. • 6-week open consultation period Oct – early Dec 2018. The consultation was conducted via a variety of communication channels and in formats to ensure groups are not knowingly excluded. • October 2018: An event was held in Endeavour House Atrium whereby stakeholders could speak to officers regarding the content of the consultation. Which Gavin has included in formal report

<p>7. Is there potential for differential impact (negative or positive) on any of the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a potential, but it is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>Any policies to be adopted to support the delivery and implementation of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy will complete an EQIA to ensure there are no negative impacts.</p> <p>The aim of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is to improve outcomes for those facing a housing crisis. We are also required to follow legal procedures to ensure we accurately support and assess applications for assistance.</p>
<p>8. Is there the possibility of discriminating unlawfully, directly or indirectly, against people from any protected characteristics?</p>	<p>No; the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is focussed on creating a positive impact on residents, housing availability, current housing stock conditions and housing related services provided by both Councils and other providers.</p>
<p>9. Could there be an effect on relations between certain groups?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is intended to enhance relations between certain groups by extending and creating greater choice and options in the local housing markets and additional housing information services.</p>
<p>10. Does the policy explicitly involve, or focus on a particular equalities group, i.e. because they have particular needs?</p>	<p>No, but should any policy / service or function changes be required as part of the implementation of the revised Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy outcomes, additional specific EQIA work will be carried out as that programme of work is developed to ensure compliance with the Public-Sector Equality Duties.</p>

Proceed to full assessment: No **Equalities Lead sign-off: Kate Parnum (21/02/2019)**

Authors signature: Heather Tucker, Corporate Manager – Housing Solutions

Date of completion: 21st February 2019

* Public sector duty does not apply to marriage and civil partnership.