



EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

PART 1 - INITIAL SCREENING

Name of Policy/Function: Homeless Strategy		This is new
		This is a change to an existing policy
		This is an existing policy, Function, not previously assessed
	X	This is an existing policy/function for review

Date of screening	19/8/2016
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1. Briefly describe its aims & objectives

The Homeless Strategy informs and guides the organisation in dealing with homelessness in the Borough.

2. Are there external considerations? (Legislation/government directive etc)

A Homeless Strategy is a statutory duty conferred upon the Council by the Homelessness Act 2002 and this strategy refreshes the 2008 strategy

3. Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?

- Private registered providers of accommodation – who provide affordable homes to those with particular need for housing
- Advice and advocacy providers in the voluntary sector – who advise and support those facing homelessness
- Housing Options teams in this borough and the adjacent boroughs including all of Leicester and Leicestershire – as joint working helps to resolve certain issues
- People facing homelessness – who are directly impacted by the assistance provided and which is outlined in the strategy
- Borough Councillors and residents – who have an interest in ensuring homelessness is dealt with adequately in the Borough

4. What outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?

The main outcome is to provide an adequate response to homelessness in the Borough.

5. Has any consultation/research been carried out?

Yes.

The strategy was presented to discussion to the Service Delivery Committee on 5 July 2016 and was then sent directly to the majority of stakeholder organisations in August 2016. The stakeholders targeted included Private Registered Providers of Housing (Housing Associations), Advice and Advocacy Agencies, Leicester and Leicestershire Local Housing Authorities. The draft strategy was also placed on the corporate website to allow the public to comment in addition to its publication as part of the democratic process.

6. Are there any concerns at this stage which indicate the possibility of Inequalities/negative impacts?

No concerns have been highlighted.

Homelessness has the potential to impact on anyone regardless of any protected characteristic. The Housing Options approach operated through the Customer Service Centre means that customers have an accessible venue, access to translation services and a face to face interview from experienced staff which reduces the barriers that other approaches might introduce. Requests for reasonable adjustments such as sign language interpreters for deaf clients are regularly received and acted upon. No complaints have been received around accessibility of service or other equality matters in relation to the Housing Options provision.

7. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

Positive – It could benefit

Negative – It could disadvantage

Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact

Not sure?

	Type of impact, reason & any evidence
Disability	Neutral
Race (including Gypsy & Traveller)	Neutral
Age	Positive, particular additional resource is provided for 16 & 17 year olds
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Sex	Positive, particular provision is made for victims of domestic abuse of whom the majority are female
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Religion/Belief	Neutral
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and	Neutral

Maternity	
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8. Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes, homeless?

All socio-economic groups might be affected. It should be noted that those with substantial funds are more likely to have scope to resolve their homelessness

9. Are there any human rights implications?

No.

10. Is there an opportunity to promote equality and/or good community relations?

No.

11. If you have indicated a negative impact for any group is that impact legal (not discriminatory under anti-discrimination legislation)?

Not applicable.

12. Is any part of this policy/service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

Yes.

The Council utilises services which are contracted through third party organisations and partnerships.

13. Is a Part 2 full Equality Assessment required?

No.

14. Date by which a Part 2 full Equality Assessment is to be completed with actions.

Not applicable.

Please note that you should proceed to a Part 2, the full Equality Assessment if you have identified actual, or the potential to cause, adverse impact or discrimination against different groups in the community.

We are satisfied that an initial screening has been carried out and a full equality assessment **is not required*** (please delete as appropriate).

Completed by Steve Nash Date 19/08/16
(Policy/Function/Report Written)

Countersigned by Stephen Glazebrook Date 19/08/16
(Head of Service)

Please forward an electronic copy to:

veronika.quintyne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk (*Community Engagement Officer*)

Equality Assessments shall be published on the Council website with the relevant and appropriate document upon which the equality assessment has been undertaken.