

# Equality Impact Assessment

This **online** equality impact assessment should:

An equality impact assessment should take place when considering doing something in a new way. Please submit your completed EIA as an appendix to your committee report. Please remember that this will be a public document – do not use jargon or abbreviations.

**Service** Directorate of Economic Growth and Regeneration

**Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy**

Application for Grant Funding from the Community Housing Fund (Halton Senior Co-Housing Ltd)

**Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:** Existing  New/Proposed

**Lead Officer** Kathy Beaton

**People involved with completing the EIA**

Kathy Beaton

**Step 1.1: Make sure you have clear aims and objectives**

Q1. What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

To provide a grant to fund the pre-development costs of a proposed community led housing project intended for people of age 55 and above.

Q2.

Who is intended to benefit? Who will it have a detrimental effect on and how?

The proposed scheme will directly benefit older people who wish to move to more suitable accommodation which will better meet their longer term needs, and will provide the highest possible standard of energy efficiency (Passivhaus) keeping running costs low. This in turn will help mitigate the effects of climate change and will encourage other community groups and housing providers to achieve the same standards.

**Step 1.2: Collect information**

**g your information**

Q3. Using existing data (if available) and thinking about each group below, does, or could, the policy, service, function, project or strategy have a negative impact on the groups below?

Group	Negative	Positive/No Impact	Unclear
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faith, religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation including civic partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other socially excluded groups such as carers, areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## Step 1.3 – Is there a need to consult!

Q4. Who have you consulted with? If you haven't consulted yet please list who you are going to consult with? Please give examples of how you have or are going to consult with specific groups of communities

This is the first community led development that has already received £15K direct funding support from Lancaster City Council and is now at an advanced stage. Other Local Authority housing leads have been consulted, the specialist adviser for the Community Land Trust has been extensively consulted, Homes England have been consulted and consultants Lambert Smith Hampton have also been consulted. Halton Senior Co-Housing Group Ltd have also held an engagement event to raise awareness and generate interest and have also consulted Halton Parish Council. Further consultation will take place once the planning application is submitted.

## Step 1.4 – Assessing the impact

Q5. Using the existing data and the assessment in questions 3 what does it tell you, is there an impact on some groups in the community?

**Age:** Positive. The proposed dwellings are intended for people of 55 and above.

**Disability:** Positive. The exact design standards have not been determined fully but it is expected that units will achieve lifetime homes standards as a minimum and one unit may achieve full wheelchair standards.

**Faith, Religion or Belief:** No impact

**Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity:** No impact

**Gender Reassignment:** No impact

**Race:** No impact

**Sexual Orientation including Civic Partnership:** No impact

**Rural Communities:** In relation to the allocation policy for the affordable units, preference will be given to people with a local connection to Halton and then surrounding rural areas. Through previous engagement, the group have already raised awareness with their local community.

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you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

None expected

Q7. Do you need any more information/evidence eg statistic, consultation. If so how do you plan to address this?

Further consultation will take place as deemed appropriate to support the planning application for this scheme. The group may also undertake further marketing/engagement work if the scheme proceeds.

**Step**

## 1.6 – Make a recommendation based on steps 1.1 to 1.5

Q8. If you are in a position to make a recommendation to change or introduce the policy, service, function, project or strategy, clearly show how it was decided on.

The original funding allocation was received from central government to allow Local Authorities most affected by second homes ownership to support and develop community led housing schemes and therefore the proposal meets the government's original objectives. It also aligns to

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the council's grant policy which was approved by Cabinet in August 2017. This proposal provides an excellent opportunity to deliver a community led development in Lancaster district which offers the potential to provide an exemplar scheme for older people in a community based setting.

Q9.

If you are not in a position to go ahead, what actions are you going to take?

N/A

Q10. Where necessary, how do you plan to monitor the impact and effectiveness of this change or decision?

Should the grant be approved, a grant agreement will be entered into by the council and Halton Senior Housing Group Ltd. This will set out the monitoring arrangements and phasing of the grant payments.