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   Economic Growth and Regeneration/Communities and the Environment

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy

The Homes Strategy for Lancaster district 2020-25

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 capture the housing needs of Lancaster district and seek to meet that needs through identifying key priorities and actions.

Q2.

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

Anyone in need of housing in Lancaster district

Step 1.2: Collecting 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	☐	☒	☐
Disability	☐	☒	☐
Faith, religion or belief	☐	☒	☐
Gender including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	☐	☒	☐
Gender reassignment	☐	☒	☐
Race	☐	☒	☐
Sexual orientation including civic partnerships	☐	☒	☐
Other socially excluded groups such as carers, areas of deprivation	☐	☒	☐
Rural communities	☐	☒	☐

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

Equality Impact Assessment

The Communities Together Group were consulted in 2019 before any drafting of the strategy had begun. The purpose of the consultation was to establish if BAME communities in Lancaster district had specific needs that would need to be addressed in the strategy. A cross party member group was set up in September 2019 as a lead into preparation of the strategy. Capital Strategy Group were consulted at their meeting in June 2020. A further period of consultation will take place for a minimum of 6 weeks with a press release to launch. The document will be published on the council's website with an online response form. The Voice Your View Panel will be consulted, City/Parish Councillors, Communities Together Group, Commissioning Leads, The Homelessness Forum, Homeless Advisory Group, Lancaster Vision and the District Wide Tenants Forum. A focus group will be arranged with Registered Provider Partners.

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 Strategy acknowledges the need for purpose built extra care housing for older people in Lancaster district with recommendation actions to meet that need.

Disability: Positive. The Strategy will seek to meet the identified needs of people with a range of diabilities in Lancaster district working closely with commissioning leads/teams in Lancashire County Council.

Faith, Religion or Belief: It is not expected that the strategy will adversely affect these groups and could have positive impacts through supporting groups to take forward community led housing to meet a specific need.

Gender including Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity: No impact

Gender Reassignment: No adverse impact expected

Race: No adverse impact expected although continued dialogue with BAME is needed to explore potential for positive impact.

Sexual Orientation including Civic Partnership: could be positive as some discussion has taken place with Out In the Bay to identify the housing needs of the LGBT community and ways in which the council can increase the housing choices available to this group

Rural Communities: Positive mainly because allocations of affordable housing in rural areas is given to people with a local connection. The council does not support development in rural areas which are not deemed to be sustainable settlements, which could limit housing choice and availability but rural exeption sites still allow for affordable housing developments in these instances.

Step 1.5 – What are the differences?

Q6. If you are either directly or indirectly discriminating, how are you going to change this or mitigate the negative impact?

No group will be directly or indirectly discriminated against and whilst the strategy will make a genuine attempt to meet the needs of a wide range of groups and communities, the level of affordable/specialist housing being generated as a result of the strategy will not meet the entire district's needs.

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

Further consultation will be undertaken once a final draft document is prepared.

Equality Impact Assessment

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

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.

A cross party member group was established in September 2019 to commence the formulation of the new Homes Strategy and identify the key priorities. Capital Strategy Group were also consulted prior to seeking endorsement from Cabinet. An initial report was presented to Cabinet in July setting out the key priorities and actions, with a further approval required to approve the draft document.

Q9. If you

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

Click here to enter text.

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

The intention is for the Cross Party Member Working Group will form the Housing Advisory Group with some external representation being explored.