

## Colchester Borough Council

### Equality Impact Assessment Form - An Analysis of the Effects on Equality

#### Section 1: Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Name of policy to be assessed:

- Housing Development Strategy

*NB: 'Policy' is meant broadly to mean policy, strategy, service, function, activity or decision.*

1. What is the main purpose of the policy?

- The approval in principle the following:
  - The recommended outline proposal to commence a seven year programme of direct new build housing development on Council-owned sites subject to a full business case being approved by Cabinet at a later date.
  - To approve in principle the creation of a wholly-owned Housing Development Company to deliver the proposed pipeline of development, subject to approval of the full business case referred to above, to include further site pre-development work, viability testing, financial modelling and specialist legal advice.
  - To authorise officers to work up the full business case including company structure, further site pre-development work and viability testing.

2. What main areas or activities does it cover?

- Housing development by the Council on sites in the Council ownership across the borough

3. Are there changes to an existing policy being considered in this assessment? If so what are they?

- N/A

4. Who are the main audience, users or customers who will be affected by the policy?

- Borough Residents
- Elected Members
- Colchester residents currently on the housing register

5. What outcomes do you want to achieve from the policy?

- To take a lead in meeting overall housing stock needs and raising the quality of design and delivery in the Borough
- To play a part in the sustainable growth of the construction industry and provide high quality training opportunities through onsite developments
- A decision in principle will allow officers to carry out more detailed work on site pre-development, financial modelling and viability.

6. Are other service areas or partner agencies involved in delivery? If so, please give details below:

- Spatial policy
- Planning policy
- Finance both internal and external
- Legal both internal and external
- External development consultants

7. Are you aware of any relevant information, data, surveys or consultations<sup>1</sup> which help us to assess the likely or actual impact of the policy upon customers or staff?

- N/A

*If so provide details and include a link to the document or source where available.*

8. The 'general duty' states that we must have "due regard" to the need to:

- (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a 'protected characteristic'<sup>2</sup> and those who do not<sup>3</sup>
- (c) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not<sup>4</sup>

Not all policies help us to meet the 'general duty', but most do.

*Where applicable, explain how this policy helps us to meet the 'general duty':*

The policy helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation' in the following way(s):

- The policy may help to ensure that no protected characteristics suffer indirect discrimination through our approach to meeting housing need.

The policy helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):

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<sup>1</sup>Click on [surveys or consultations](#) for more information. The Council's surveys and consultations include 'equality monitoring information' to help us identify any particular concerns or views expressed by any particular group or 'protected characteristic'. It can also help us to assess how representative of our customers the respondent group is. Local Data on the Protected Characteristics is available [on this page](#) of the Hub.

<sup>2</sup>The Equality Act's 'protected characteristics' include age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex and sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but not for all aspects of the duty.

<sup>3</sup>This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to: (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it, and (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

<sup>4</sup>This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to (a) tackle prejudice, and (b) promote understanding.

- Seeking to deliver high quality housing in the borough in varying tenures

The policy helps us to ‘foster good relations...’ in the following way(s):

- The policy is not expected to specifically meet this aim.

9. This section helps us to identify any disproportionate impacts. Please indicate in the table below whether the policy is likely to particularly benefit or disadvantage any of the ‘protected characteristics’.

Remember to include reference to any relevant consultation, data or information.

‘Protected characteristic’ group		Positive Impact	Explain how it could particularly benefit the group	Negative Impact	Explain how it could particularly disadvantage the group
Age	Older people (60+)	Y	Could benefit older people who may be seeking alternative housing		None identified
	Younger people (17-25) and children (0-16)	Y	High quality housing in the borough for local residents		None identified
Disability	Physical		None identified		None identified
	Sensory		None identified		None identified
	Learning		None identified		None identified
	Mental health issues		None identified		None identified
	Other – <i>specify</i>				
Ethnicity <sup>5</sup>	White		None identified		None identified
	Black		None identified		None identified
	Chinese		None identified		None identified
	Mixed Ethnic Origin		None identified		None identified
	Gypsies/ Travellers		None identified		None identified
	Other – <i>please state</i>				
Language	English not first language		None identified		None identified

<sup>5</sup> National Census 2011 categories are: Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Other Asian (Asian or Asian British), African, Caribbean, Other Black (Black or Black British), White and Black African, White and Asian, White and Black Caribbean (Mixed), British, Irish, Other White (White), Chinese, Other (Other Ethnic Group).

'Protected characteristic' group		Positive Impact	Explain how it could particularly benefit the group	Negative Impact	Explain how it could particularly disadvantage the group
Pregnancy and Maternity	Women who are pregnant or have given birth in last 26 weeks		None identified		None identified
Religion or Belief	People with a religious belief (or none)		None identified		None identified
Sex	Men		None identified		None identified
	Women		None identified		None identified
Gender Reassignment <sup>6</sup>	Transgender/ Transsexual		None identified		None identified
Sexual Orientation	Bisexual, Heterosexual, Gay or Lesbian		None identified		None identified
Marriage and Civil Partnership	People who are married or in a civil partnership		None identified		None identified

10. If you have identified any negative impacts (above) how can they be minimised or removed?

*(This is a key section: Please deal with each negative impact noted above in turn.)*

- Not applicable

11. Could the policy discriminate<sup>7</sup> against any 'protected characteristic', either directly or indirectly<sup>8</sup>? **No**

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<sup>6</sup> The protected characteristic of gender reassignment is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as “a person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.” This is a personal process that may involve medical interventions such as counselling, psychotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery, but does not have to. NB: It is generally held that transgender people disguise their features or clothing to resemble their preferred sex, whereas transsexual people wish to change their body to completely resemble their preferred sex.

## Summary and findings of Initial Equality Impact Assessment

12. Please put a tick in the relevant box to confirm your findings, and what the next step is:

Findings	Action required
No negative impacts have been identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and finish.
Negative impacts have been identified but have been minimised or removed <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and finish.
Negative impacts could not be minimised or removed <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and complete a full impact assessment – Section 2.
There is insufficient evidence to make a judgement. <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and complete a full impact assessment – Section 2.

13. Name and job title of person completing this form:

- Holly Brett

14. Date of completion:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

15. Date for update or review of this screening:

- Not applicable

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<sup>7</sup> The Council has a general duty to ‘eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation’. Direct discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another in a comparable situation because of their ‘protected characteristic’ whether on grounds of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, ethnicity; religion or belief; sex (gender), sexual orientation, or marriage and civil partnership. Indirect discrimination occurs when an apparently neutral provision or practice would nevertheless disadvantage people on the grounds of their ‘protected characteristic’.

<sup>8</sup> If you answer ‘yes’ to question 11 (above) you will need to complete this section *and* go on to complete Section 2 in order to conduct a full Equality Impact Assessment.