

Appendix C Harborough District Council Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Section/Department	Health & Enforcement Services	Persons undertaking the assessment (please also state name of contact officer)		Elaine Bird Ex 1130	
Name of policy or function to be assessed	Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy	Date of assessment	27th April 2009	New or existing policy	New policy
1. Briefly describe the aims, objective or purpose of the policy, or service function.	Harborough District Council's original Private Sector Renewal Policy was developed in 2003 following the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance)(England and Wales) Order 2002. This statute provides a general power to provide assistance for housing renewal and gives flexibilities on how this is achieved. Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants were retained in the legislation. Local authorities have the responsibility to adopt and publish policy that is based on information on the housing stock and local issues that can be affected by house condition. Changes in legislation relating to disabled facilities and the general reduction in the level of level of capital receipts over the years has meant that the Council has to look at alternative forms of assistance for private sector renewal. This had lead to the development of the revised Private Sector Renewal Policy.				
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy/function?	<p>Decent Homes To improve non-decent homes in the District and to increase the number of homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard.</p> <p>Affordable Warmth To reduce the number of fuel poor homes and to increase the level of energy efficiency in homes throughout the District.</p> <p>Independent Living To assist elderly and disabled people to live in their homes more independently.</p> <p>Housing that is Affordable and free from Hazards To provide assistance to good landlords to ensure private rented accommodation is at a good standard to encouraging empty properties to be bought back into use. Vulnerable owner occupiers and tenants will provide support and assistance to improve their living accommodation.</p> <p>General To offer general advice to property owners and tenants providing a range of information and making referrals to other organisations as appropriate.</p>				
3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?	Generally the policy will be targeted towards the elderly, disabled and vulnerable households in the district.				

What outcomes are wanted from this policy/function and for whom?		See answer to question 2	
4. How do these outcomes meet or hinder other policies, values, or objectives of HDC?		Working towards: Improved life chances for vulnerable people and places A safe and attractive place to live and work A healthier Leicestershire Older Persons Strategy Housing Strategy	
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the intended outcomes?		If loans and equity release schemes are introduced, the take up schemes is anticipated to be low, particularly in the early stages and there may be issues of affordability with the repayment loans which may make this option prohibitively expensive for vulnerable households. However the range of financial options in the policy will ensure that even the most vulnerable households will have access to financial assistance.	
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to this policy?	Anchor Staying Put Harborough and Melton. Social Services Private landlords Service Users.	7. Who implements the policy/function and is responsible for the policy?	Implemented by Health & Enforcement Service and Anchor Staying Put HIA, responsibility ultimately rests with full Council
8. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact on racial groups?	Y		Information and translation services will need to be available when necessary.
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community however additional support will be required for translation of documentation etc.	
9. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to gender?		N	
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community	
10. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to disability?	Y		The disabled facilities grant seeks to positively assist elderly and disabled people to live in their homes more independently
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have			

for this?			
11. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?		N	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community	
12. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to age?	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		The disabled facilities grant seeks to positively assist elderly and disabled people to live in their homes more independently	
13. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to religious belief?		N	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community	
14. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people having dependants/caring responsibilities?	Y		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		The disabled facilities grant seeks to positively assist elderly and disabled people to live in their homes more independently	
15. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people having an offending past?		N	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community	
16. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people being transgendered or transsexual?		N	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 		Subject to the client fulfilling the eligibility criteria assistance will be available to all sectors of the community	
17. Could any differential impact identified in 10-19 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy?		N	The policy aims to have a positive impact on the quality of life via improvements to the housing conditions of the most vulnerable in society e.g. disabled, elderly fuel poor etc
18. Can any adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one or more groups or any other reason?		N	
19. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment?		N	
20. Should the policy proceed to a full impact assessment?		N	The implementation of the Private Sector Renewal Policy will have a positive impact on the welfare of the groups identify in the initial impact assessment.
21. If no, are there any recommended changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?	Access to translation service and information in other formats and languages would improve the service		
Additional notes/guidance (Policy Officer)			

Signed (completing officer) Date / /

Signed (Head of Service) Date / /