

## Equality & Health Impact Assessment (EqHIA)

### Document control

<b>Title of activity:</b>	HRA Budget & Business Plan 2021/22
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Patrick Odling-Smee, Director of Housing
<b>Approved by:</b>	Patrick Odling-Smee, Director of Housing
<b>Date completed:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Scheduled date for review:</b>	Annual

<b>Did you seek advice from the Corporate Policy &amp; Diversity team?</b>	No
<b>Did you seek advice from the Public Health team?</b>	No
<b>Does the EqHIA contain any confidential or exempt information that would prevent you publishing it on the Council's website?</b>	No

**Please submit the completed form via e-mail to [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) thank you.**

# 1. Equality & Health Impact Assessment Checklist

Please complete the following checklist to determine whether or not you will need to complete an EqHIA and ensure you keep this section for your audit trail. If you have any questions, please contact [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) for advice from either the Corporate Diversity or Public Health teams. Please refer to the Guidance in Appendix 1 on how to complete this form.

## About your activity

1	Title of activity	HRA Budget & Business Plan 2020/21
2	Type of activity	This report recommends the capital and revenue budgets for the council owned housing stock for 2020/21 and the invest in housing for the next 30 years.
3	Scope of activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget as detailed in paragraph 3.5.</li> <li>2. Agree that the rents chargeable for tenants in general needs Council properties owned by the London Borough of Havering be increased by 1.5% from the week commencing 5th April 2021.</li> <li>3. Agree that the rents chargeable for tenants in supported housing Council properties, such as sheltered housing and hostels, owned by the London Borough of Havering, are increased by 1.5% from the week commencing 5th April 2021</li> <li>4. Agree the four rent-free weeks for 2020/21 as being: week commencing 23rd August 2021, the two weeks commencing 20th and 27th December 2021, and the week commencing 28th March 2022.</li> <li>5. Agree that service charges and heating and hot water charges for 2021/22 are as detailed in paragraph 2.10 of this report.</li> <li>6. Agree that charges for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) leased and managed by the Council (General Fund) are set at the LHA applicable on the 5th April 2021.</li> <li>7. Agree that charges for garages should be increased by 1.5% in 2021/22 as detailed in paragraph 2.7 of this report.</li> <li>8. Agree that the service charge for the provision of intensive housing management support in</li> </ol>

		<p>sheltered housing for 2021/22 shall be as detailed in paragraph 2.15 of this report.</p> <p>9. That Members consider the options for the Supported Housing Charge for HRA Hostels as detailed in paragraph 2.20</p> <p>10. Agree that the Careline and Telecare support charge should be increased by 1.5% for 2021/22 as detailed in paragraph 2.18 of this report.</p> <p>12. Approve the HRA Major Works Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 1a of this report and refer it to full Council for final ratification.</p> <p>13. Approve the HRA Capital expenditure and financing for the 12 Sites Joint Venture and other acquisition and regeneration opportunities detailed in section 4.0 and Appendix 1b of this report and refer it to full Council for final ratification.</p>		
4a	Are you changing, introducing a new, or removing a service, policy, strategy or function?	No		
4b	Does this activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people (9 protected characteristics)?	Yes	If the answer to <u>any</u> of these questions is 'YES', please continue to question 5.	If the answer to <u>all</u> of the questions (4a, 4b & 4c) is 'NO', please go to question 6.
4c	Does the activity have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing?	Yes		
5	If you answered YES:	<b>Please complete the EqHIA in Section 2 of this document.</b> Please see Appendix 1 for Guidance.		
6	If you answered NO:			

<b>Completed by:</b>	Patrick Odling-Smee, Director of Housing
<b>Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

## 2. The EqHIA – How will the strategy, policy, plan, procedure and/or service impact on people?

### Background/context:

The HRA remains a ring-fenced account that is used to manage the Council's own housing stock. The proposed budget will enable the Council to manage the stock to a good standard, maintain the existing stock to the Decent Homes standard and provide funding for a significant new build and estate regeneration programme. It further sets rents, service charges and other charges for Council tenants and leaseholders for the year 2021/22.

The Council recognises that there is a need for good quality affordable homes, especially for vulnerable residents such as the elderly, those on low income and first time buyers, and has set out its ambition to meet these needs by using resources generated through the Council's Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. The formula for setting social rent should enable registered providers to set rents at a level that allows them to meet their obligations to their tenants, maintain their stock (to at least Decent Homes Standard) and continue to function as a financially viable organisation.

Consultation has taken place with tenants and leaseholders through the Consultation panels held in January 2021. Formal notification will be sent out to tenants giving 4 week notice of the increases. Tenants on housing benefit will have their payment adjusted automatically. Those on UC will have to notify the DWP to increase their payments. Separate letters are going out to tenants on UC. Financial and welfare benefits advice is available to all tenants.

### Who will be affected by the activity?

Tenants and leaseholders of the council stock and occupants of temporary accommodation owned or leased by the council.

### Protected Characteristic - Age: Consider the full range of age groups

Please tick (✓)  
the relevant box:

**Positive**

#### Overall impact:

Overall impact:

The majority of council tenants are of working age in Havering. A

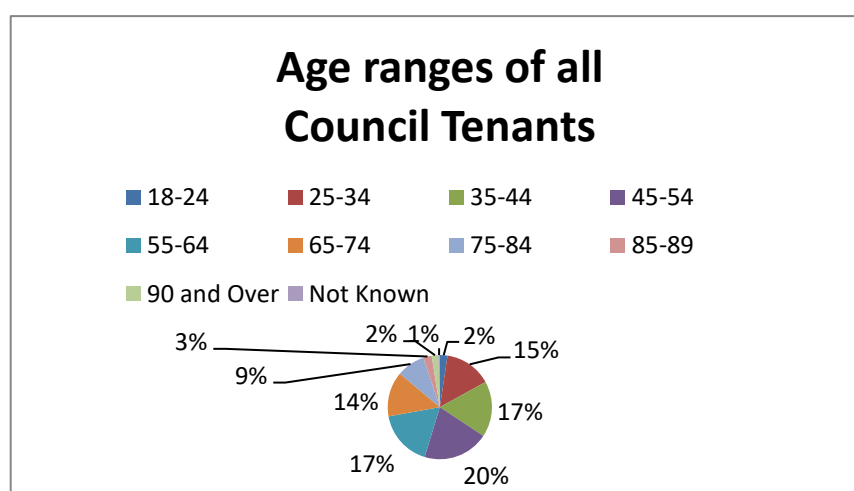
Neutral		<p>quarter of all council tenants in the Borough are of pension age. As of 8th November 2017, 55% of council tenants currently receive either a full or partial award of Housing Benefit among both working age and pension age tenants. Housing Benefit or Universal Credit payments will cover or reduce the impact for many tenants, although for benefit purposes, heating and water charges are exempt and tenants are expected to pay these costs themselves. The council also collects these water charges on behalf of the Water Authority which reduces the cost to the residents.</p>
Negative	✓	<p>The remaining 45% of tenants will be responsible for meeting all of their rent and service charge costs. The biggest impact is likely to be on low income working households and pensioner households whose income and savings respectively take them above the Housing Benefit threshold.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact of any increases in service charges, a cap of 25% has been applied to the increase of supported housing service charges. Hostel services charges are either going to be capped at 15% or rise by 50% to cover the full cost. While tenants will be paying a fuller contribution towards the costs of these services, any increases genuinely reflect and are required to meet the actual cost of providing these services. The services have been reviewed and they do provide value for money.</p> <p>We recognise that the increase in service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. The decision to increase Telecare and Careline costs may affect those residents who self-fund this service. These services enable tenants to stay in their homes for longer. Allowing the tenant to maintain their independence. There is the potential consequence that affected tenants may withdraw their subscription to this scheme. The costs are similar or lower than those charged in other London boroughs.</p> <p>All tenants regardless of their age who are affected by the increase in service charges will be notified of the specific changes to their service charges and will be provided with information and guidance for money and debt advice.</p> <p>Housing services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or supported housing accommodation.</p> <p>Housing Services' will advise tenants to make welfare benefits claims and to refer tenants to sources of support. To this end, as part of 'business as usual', details of the increase in service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.</p>

On request, Housing Services can provide this information in an appropriate format according the needs of the tenant.

### Evidence:

The estimated population of the London Borough of Havering is 252,783<sup>1</sup>. Havering has the oldest population in London, with a median age of approximately 40 years old<sup>2</sup>. Households are mainly composed of pensioners or married couples with dependents. It is projected that the largest increases in population will occur in children (0-17 years) and older people age groups (65 years and above), up to 2030<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Age groups among Council Tenants (November 2017)**



Among current council tenants, working age tenants (18-64 years) are the predominant age group, making up 72% of all council tenants, while pension age tenants (64-90+) make up just over a quarter (28%) of all council tenants<sup>4</sup>.

### Sources used:

2016 Mid-year Estimates of Population (Office of National Statistics) Published June 2017

Census 2011; Office for National Statistics (ONS); Produced by Public Health Intelligence

Projected Population Growth by Age: 2014 Round Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Based Projections (GLA)

Housing Service Diversity Report – November 2017

**Protected Characteristic - Disability:** Consider the full range of disabilities; including physical mental, sensory and progressive conditions

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

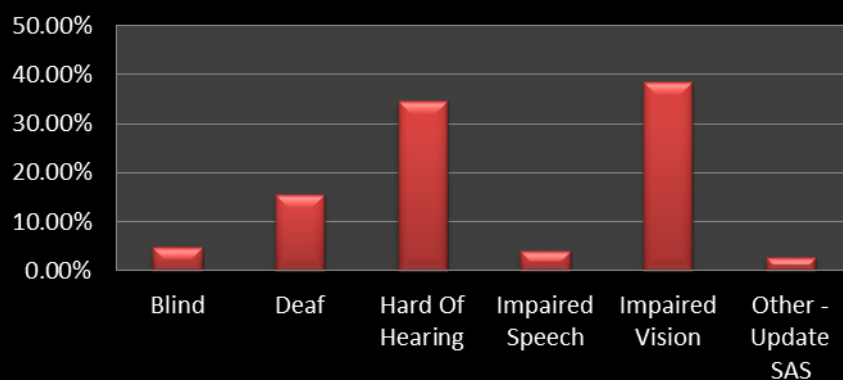
**Negative**

### Overall impact:

There will be some disabled people on low incomes who may find that the rent and service charge increases may cause them financial difficulties, particularly those who may have income or savings which are just above the threshold to qualify for Housing Benefit. Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit or UC may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in service charges.

		<p>To minimise the effect of any increase in service charges, the Council have applied a cap of 25% on all service charges. Tenants will be paying a fuller contribution towards the costs of these services and the increase genuinely reflects, and is required to meet, the actual cost of providing this service.</p> <p>We recognise that any increase in rent and service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. The decision to increase Telecare and Careline costs may affect those tenants who self-fund this service. These services enable tenants to stay in their homes for longer allowing them to maintain their independence. There is the potential consequence that tenants withdraw their subscription to this scheme. The charges are similar or below those charged by other boroughs.</p> <p>Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or sheltered housing accommodation.</p> <p>Information on the increase in rent and service charges will be made accessible to disabled people. To this end, details of the increase in service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.</p> <p>On request, Housing Services can provide this information in an appropriate format according the needs of the tenant.</p>
<p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>According to the latest ONS Annual Population Survey (Jan 2014-Dec 2014), 18% of working age people living in Havering have disclosed that they have a disability or long term illness. This is a similar proportion to England (19%).</p> <p>According to Diversity data from Housing Services' most recent report November 2017, 18% of Council Tenants have declared that they have a physical disability. It is worth noting that this is a self-declaration of disability and not measured through any recognised receipt of disability related state benefits received or certification from a medical practitioner.</p> <p>From the same diversity data, 3% of residents declared that they had a sensory disability.</p> <p>Any adverse impact or effect on tenants with a disability will be negated by our communications with tenants which will signpost tenants to our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefits teams. The team will offer advice to tenants about income maximisation and signpost, where appropriate, to other sources of support and assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Percentage of Council Tenants with a Sensory Disability</b></p>		

### Sensory Disability of residents



According to Diversity data from Housing Services' most recent report May 2018, 2% of Council Tenants have declared that they have a sensory disability. It is worth noting that this like physical disability, this is a self-declaration of disability and not measured through any recognised receipt of disability related state benefits received or certification from a medical practitioner. It may be that the percentage of Council Tenants with a sensory disability is genuinely closer to that observed in the most recent census.

#### Sources used:

ONS Annual Population Survey – January – December 2014  
Housing Service Diversity Report – November 2017

#### Protected Characteristic - Sex/gender: Consider both men and women

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		Overall impact:
Positive		<p>The demographic profile of Havering council tenants indicates that an increase in service charges is more likely to affect woman rather than men. Many of these tenants will be the heads of single parent families who may be in lower paid/lower income jobs. The decision to increase rent and service charges might cause an increased financial burden on some of our vulnerable tenants, regardless of gender, when considered alongside other elements of welfare reform.</p> <p>Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit or UC may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in rent and service charges. While they will still be responsible for meeting the service charges for heating and water charges.</p> <p>To minimise the effect of any increase in service charges, the Council have applied a cap of 25% on supported housing service charges. Tenants will be paying a fuller contribution towards the costs of these services and the increase genuinely reflects, and is required to meet, the actual cost of providing this service.</p> <p>We recognise that any increase in rent and service charges could</p>
Neutral		
Negative	✓	

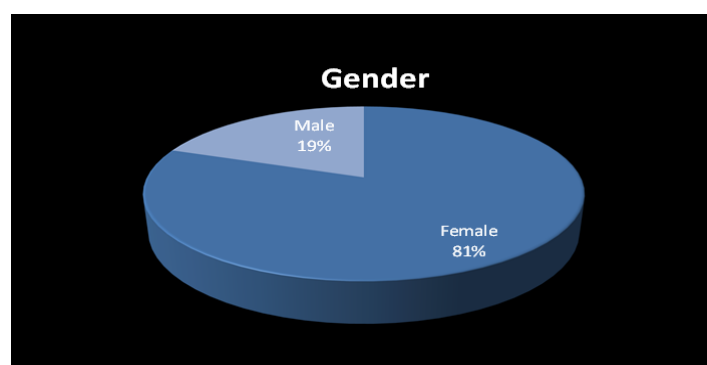


potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit or UC. Housing services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or sheltered housing accommodation.

To this end, details of the increase in rent and service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.

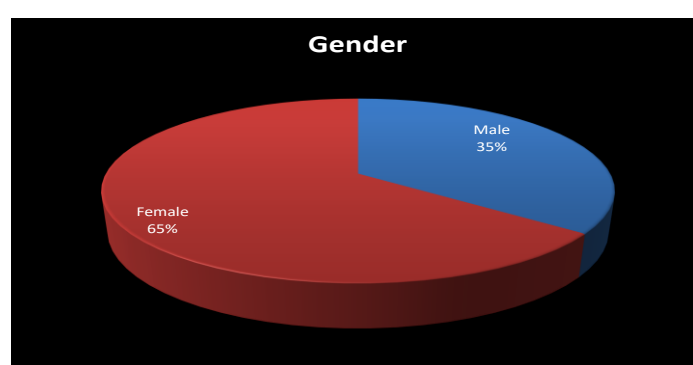
#### **Evidence:**

##### **Percentage of women and men on the Housing Register (August 2018)**



Data from the current Housing Register shows that there are more female applicants on the Housing Register compared to male applicants at present, (81% female to 19%). This is a significant increase compared to the current percentage of female to male council tenants within the current council stock.

##### **Percentage of women to men with current council tenancies**



Current demand on the Housing Register shows that this trend is likely to remain with more female to male applicants seeking social housing. It therefore stands that if there were any adverse effect it would more likely impact on women.

#### **Sources used:**

Diversity Report from OHMS – May 2018  
Housing Register Diversity Report – August 2018

**Protected Characteristic - Ethnicity/race:** Consider the impact on different ethnic groups and nationalities

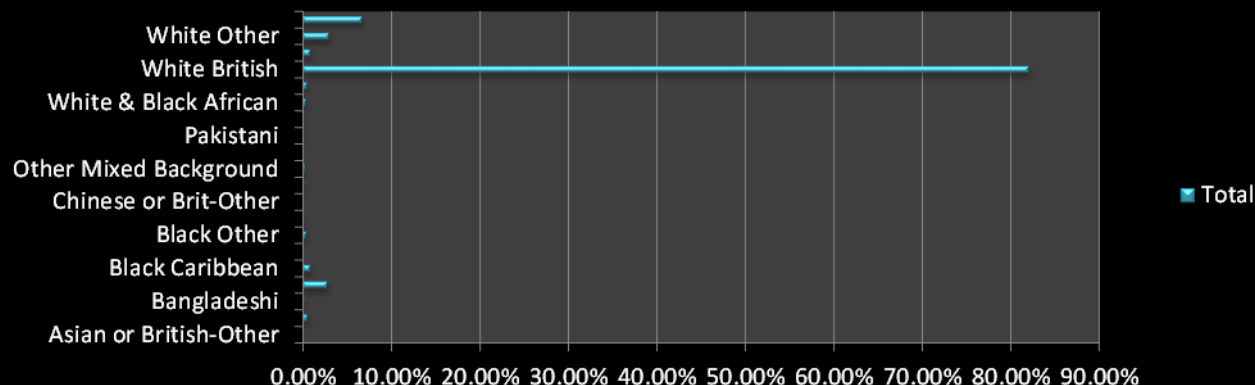
<i>Please tick (✓) the relevant box:</i>		<p><b>Overall impact:</b></p> <p>Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit or UC may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in rent and service charges. While they will still be responsible for meeting the service charges for heating and water charges, these charges have been reduced for 2018/19.</p> <p>We recognise that the increase in service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit or UC. Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist all affected tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or sheltered housing accommodation.</p> <p>To this end, details of the increase in rent and service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.</p> <p>Any potential impact to this protected characteristic group is thought to be minimal and will be managed through translation services where necessary. These resources are available to the Council as part of its daily business which will ensure that tenants, whose first language is not English receive the help and support which they may need.</p>
<b>Positive</b>		
<b>Neutral</b>		
<b>Negative</b>	✓	

**Evidence:**

Havering is one of the most ethnically homogenous places in London, with 83% of its residents recorded as White British, higher than both London and England. About 90% of the Borough population were born in the United Kingdom.

**Ethnicity of all Council Tenants**

## Ethnicity of all Council Tenants



82% of current Council Tenants are of White British Origin, with White other (3%) and Black African (3%) making the largest cohort groups of other ethnicities among current tenants.

### Sources used:

Census 2011; Office for National Statistics (ONS); Produced by Public Health Intelligence Diversity Report from OHMS – May 2018

**Protected Characteristic - Religion/faith:** Consider people from different religions or beliefs including those with no religion or belief

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

### Overall impact:

There is insufficient data to suggest that an increase in rent and service charges will have any greater or lesser effect on the grounds of a tenant's faith or religious beliefs. There is a deficit within our data on this protected characteristic with 32% of our tenants preferring not to say or where we have been unable to record this information. A further 30% of our tenants stated that they did not have a faith or religious belief.

All tenants regardless of their religion or faith who are affected by the increase in service charges will be notified of the specific changes to their service charges and will be provided with information and guidance for money and debt advice.

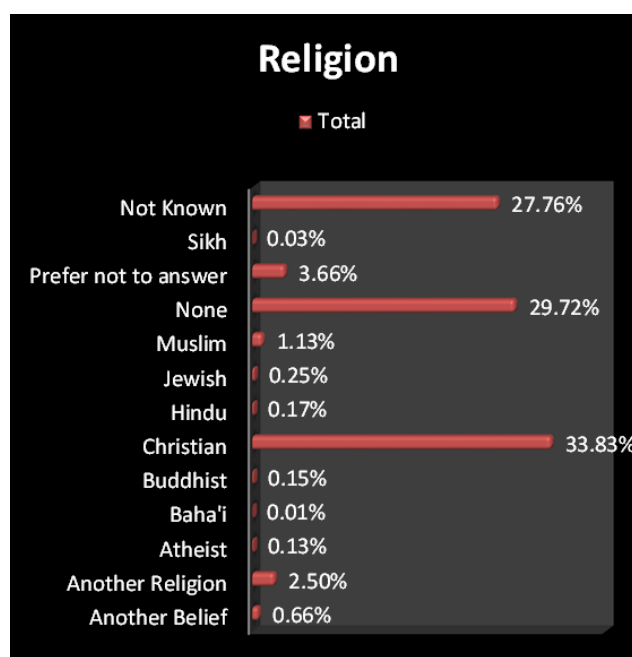
Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or supported housing accommodation.

Housing Services' will advise tenants to make welfare benefits claims and to refer tenants to sources of support. To this end, details of the increase in rent and service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with

tenants.

**Evidence:**

**Religious Beliefs of all Council Tenants**



The majority of current Council Tenants who provided this information have indicated that they follow the Christian faith, 31% have not provided this information while 30% have indicated that they do not have a particular religious or faith belief.

However, the Service recognises that as the demographics of the Borough and London are changing, the variety of religious beliefs and faiths among our tenants will widen.

**Sources used:**

Housing Services Diversity Report – November 2018

**Protected Characteristic - Sexual orientation:** Consider people who are heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

**Overall impact:**

Although Housing Services has very limited data available, we have been unable to identify where the increase in service charges will have a disproportionate impact on this protected characteristic

Sexuality is not relevant to the majority of housing services, with the exception of tackling harassment, hate crime or domestic abuse.

The increase in rent and service charges will be applied to tenants regardless of their sexual orientation. The increase will not have a disproportionate effect on the ground of this protected characteristic.

Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or supported housing accommodation.

		<p>Housing Services' will advise tenants to make welfare benefits claims and to refer tenants to sources of support. To this end, details of the increase in rent service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.</p> <p>On request, Housing Services can provide this information in an appropriate format according to the needs of the tenant.</p> <p>Housing Services would benefit from a better understanding of service take up by all service users. This information can then be provided to management so that they can have a clear picture of need, and therefore take appropriate action to plan services. It is anticipated that once Housing Services new IT system is embedded, we will be able to do so.</p>
<b>Evidence:</b> There is a deficit in the data held on the sexual orientation of residents within the Borough.		
<b>Sources used:</b> There is insufficient data on this protected characteristic.		

<b>Protected Characteristic - Gender reassignment:</b> Consider people who are seeking, undergoing or have received gender reassignment surgery, as well as people whose gender identity is different from their gender at birth		
Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		<b>Overall impact:</b>  There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the increase in Rent and Service Charges would have a greater or lesser effect on people from this protected characteristic  Housing Services would benefit from a better understanding of service take up by all service users. This information can then be provided to management so that they can have a clear picture of need, and therefore take appropriate action to plan services. It is anticipated that once Housing Services new IT system is embedded, we will be able to do so.  Gender reassignment is not relevant to the majority of housing services, with the exception of tackling harassment, hate crime or domestic abuse.  The increase in rent and service charges will be applied to the tenant regardless of any protected group they may belong to. The increase will not have a disproportionate effect on the ground of this protected characteristic.
<b>Positive</b>		
<b>Neutral</b>	✓	
<b>Negative</b>		

		<p>Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in service charges.</p> <p>We recognise that the increase in rent and service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist all affected tenants to manage this increase in service charges. This applies to all tenants whether in general needs or sheltered housing accommodation.</p> <p>Housing Services' will advise tenants to make welfare benefits claims and to refer tenants to sources of support. To this end, details of the increase in rent and service charges will be included in the end of year rent statement sent out to tenants. We will also include information on Housing Services' pages on the Havering website, the tenant magazine 'At the Heart' and in any direct contact our officers have with tenants.</p>
<b>Evidence:</b> <p>There is a deficit in the data held on residents who have undergone or are undergoing gender reassignment. In a similar vein to the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, there is a reticence among residents and tenants to disclose this information.</p> <p>We recognise that this is an elective process on the part of the tenant and Housing Services will respect the confidence given to our officers when a tenant discloses this information to us.</p>		
<b>Sources used:</b> <p>No data is currently available concerning this protected characteristic</p>		

Protected Characteristic - Marriage/civil partnership: Consider people in a marriage or civil partnership		
Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		<b>Overall impact:</b>
<b>Positive</b>		There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the policy would have a greater or lesser effect on people on account of their marital status
<b>Neutral</b>	✓	
<b>Negative</b>		<p>The marital status of residents does not have any impact on the management and delivery of Havering's housing services. Evidence of marriage or civil partnership holds use only to enable officers to determine if a person has the right to succeed a tenancy when their partner passes away.</p> <p>It is thought that this policy will not have any negative impact on persons within this protected characteristic.</p>

<b>Evidence:</b> We do not collate data on the marital status of council tenants, only at the point of entry on to the Housing Register and this information can become unreliable and invalid over time.
<b>Sources used:</b> No data is currently available concerning this protected characteristic.

<b>Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy, maternity and paternity:</b> Consider those who are pregnant and those who are undertaking maternity or paternity leave		
Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		<b>Overall impact:</b>
<b>Positive</b>		An impact on this protected characteristic may be more likely as tenants within this group may be on a lower income, particularly where they are receiving maternity/paternity leave pay or benefits.
<b>Neutral</b>		Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in rent and service charges.
<b>Negative</b>	✓	<p>Tenants within this protected characteristic who receive a full or partial award of Housing Benefit may find that this covers or reduces the impact of the increase in rent and service charges.</p> <p>To minimise the effect of any increase in rent and service charges, the Council have applied a cap of 25% on all service charges. Tenants will be paying a fuller contribution towards the costs of these services and the increase genuinely reflects, and is required to meet, the actual cost of providing this service.</p> <p>We recognise that the increase in rent and service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in rent and service charges.</p> <p>Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in rent and service charges.</p>
<i>*Expand box as required</i>		
<b>Evidence:</b> The only data which Housing Services collects for this protected characteristic is due dates for pregnancy, usually collated at the point of entry to the Housing Register. This data is used to ascertain the size of property/ the number of bedrooms a tenant is requires under the 'bedroom standard'.		
However, due to the nature of the protected characteristic, it would be difficult to collect accurate and up to date data.		
<b>Sources used:</b> No data is currently available concerning this protected characteristic		

**Socio-economic status:** Consider those who are from low income or financially excluded backgrounds

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:		<b>Overall impact:</b> <p>The increase in rent and service charges may have a disproportionate effect on those with a lower income, as they may have a lower level of disposable income available to cover this increase.</p> <p>An increase in rent and service charges will have a negative impact upon the finance of residents not currently in receipt of full Housing Benefit, or for those tenants who are working in lower paid employment. It could affect tenants of pension age whose income and savings fall just above the threshold to qualify for Housing Benefit.</p> <p>45% of council tenants will be affected as they do not receive full or partial housing benefit. Approximately 55% of our tenants will have the impact reduced by their entitlement to Housing Benefit.</p> <p>To minimise the effect of any increase in service charges, the Council have applied a cap of 25% on supported housing service charges. Tenants will be paying a fuller contribution towards the costs of these services and the increase genuinely reflects, and is required to meet, the actual cost of providing this service.</p> <p>We recognise that the increase in service charges could potentially impact negatively on tenants who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. Housing Services has a dedicated resource in our Financial Inclusion and Welfare Benefit team who can provide advice and support to assist tenants to manage this increase in service charges.</p>
Positive		
Neutral		
Negative	✓	

**Evidence:**

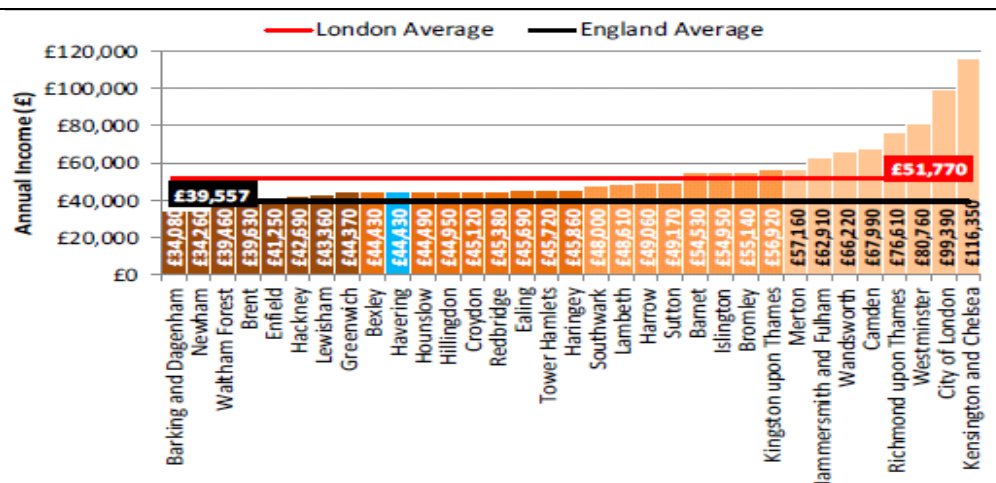
Despite low deprivation scores and high employment rates, the average gross household income in Havering, (£44,430), as measured in 2012/13, is low in comparison to the London average of £51,770 and slightly higher than the England average of £39,557. It is in the lowest third of all London Boroughs.

About 78.3% of working age residents in Havering were in employment between April 2016 – March 2017. Overall employment rate in Havering is higher than London (73.6%) and England (73.9%).

The proportion of working age residents in Havering claiming out-of-work benefits (7.0%) is significantly lower than England (8.6%).

**Table 2: Total Average Annual Household Income in London Boroughs 2012/13**



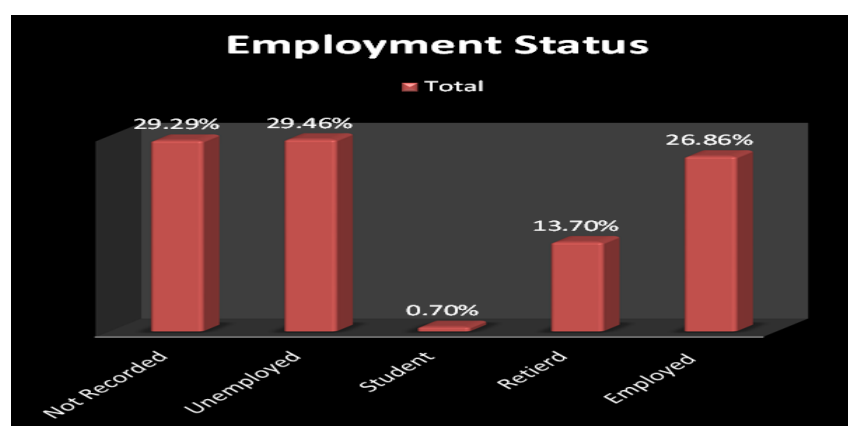


The employment rate within the Borough is higher than the London and England averages. About 77.5% of working age residents in Havering was employed between October 2014 and September 2015, compared to 72.3% and 73.6% in London and England respectively.

The proportion of working age residents claiming out of work benefits (7.5%) is significantly lower than England (8.9%)

The proportion of working age residents in the Borough claiming out of work benefits (7.0%) is significantly lower than England (8.4%)

### Employment Status of all Council Tenants



Data held on current Council Tenants demonstrates that 27% of all Council Tenants are employed on a full-time or part-time basis, while just fewer than 30% are unemployed. The number of tenant's whose employment status remains unrecorded will change as the process of reviews takes place over time. This data is not reliable in that this data is only picked up at the point where a tenant accepts an offer of council home, and individual circumstances can change over time.

### Sources used:

Household Income Estimates, Greater London Authority (GLA) 2012/13; Produced by Public Health Intelligence.

**Health & Wellbeing Impact:** Consider both short and long-term impacts of the activity on a person's physical and mental health, particularly for disadvantaged, vulnerable or at-risk groups. Can health and wellbeing be positively promoted through this activity? Please use the Health and Wellbeing Impact Tool in Appendix 2 to help you answer this question.

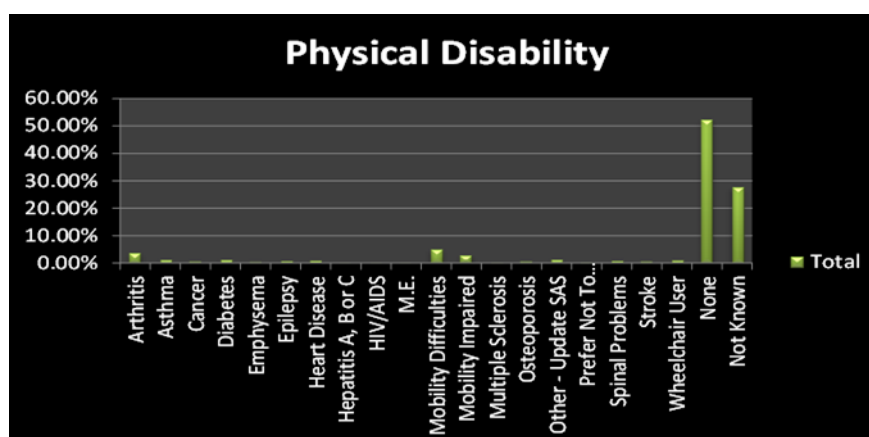
Please tick (✓) all the relevant boxes that apply:		<b>Overall impact:</b>
Positive		<p><u>Section 210(1)</u> of the Housing Act (1996) requires a housing authority to have regard to the following provisions when assessing the suitability of accommodation for an applicant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <u>Parts 9 and 10 of the Housing Act 1985</u> (the '1985 Act') (slum clearance and overcrowding); and,</li> <li>(b) <u>Parts 1 to 4 of the Housing Act 2004</u> (the '2004 Act') (housing conditions, licensing of houses in multiple occupation, selective licensing of other residential accommodation, additional control provisions in relation to residential accommodation).</li> </ol> <p>The rent increase and increase in service charges will provide the resources to fund the development programme to deliver new high quality affordable housing in the borough through the regeneration programme. This will alleviate levels of overcrowding and households living in poor housing in the borough thereby improving the health outcomes.</p> <p><b>Do you consider that a more in-depth HIA is required as a result of this brief assessment?</b> Please tick (✓) the relevant box</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Neutral	✓	
Negative		

#### Evidence:

Equalities data from the current Housing Register, (as at 2018), shows that 8% of applicants accepted on to the Housing Register have a sensory or physical disability which may necessitate the allocation of a property with a level of adaptation to meet their need. The review of flexible tenancies will serve to identify where a tenant or a member of their household no longer needs an adapted property. Where the tenant continues to have an ongoing housing need and continues to meet the eligibility criterion for social housing according to the Council's Allocation Scheme, the Council will offer the tenant a new tenancy in an appropriate property.

As of 2018, there are currently 1041 properties within the general needs and sheltered housing council stock which have disability adaptations.

**Table 3: Percentage of Council Tenants with a Physical Disability**



Data extracted from OHMS has established that 20% of council tenants have identified themselves as having a physical disability. This is, however, a figure reliant on the self-reportage of tenants and does not necessarily mean that all instances of physical disability require an adaptation.

**Sources used:**

### 3. Outcome of the Assessment

The EqHIA assessment is intended to be used as an improvement tool to make sure the activity maximises the positive impacts and eliminates or minimises the negative impacts. The possible outcomes of the assessment are listed below and what the next steps to take are:

Please tick (✓) what the overall outcome of your assessment was:

	1. The EqHIA identified <u>no significant concerns</u> OR the identified <u>negative concerns</u> have already been <u>addressed</u>	➔	<b>Proceed with implementation</b> of your activity
	2. The EqHIA identified some <u>negative impact</u> which still needs <u>to be addressed</u>	➔	<b>COMPLETE SECTION 4:</b> <b>Complete action plan</b> and finalise the EqHIA
	3. The EqHIA identified some <u>major concerns</u> and showed that it is <u>impossible to diminish negative impacts</u> from the activity to an acceptable or even lawful level	➔	<b>Stop and remove</b> the activity or <b>revise</b> the activity <b>thoroughly</b> . <b>Complete an EqHIA on the revised proposal.</b>

## 4. Action Plan

The real value of completing an EqHIA comes from the identifying the actions that can be taken to eliminate/minimise negative impacts and enhance/optimize positive impacts. In this section you should list the specific actions that set out how you will address any negative equality and health & wellbeing impacts you have identified in this assessment. Please ensure that your action plan is: more than just a list of proposals and good intentions; sets ambitious yet achievable outcomes and timescales; and is clear about resource implications.

Protected characteristic / health & wellbeing impact	Identified Negative or Positive impact	Recommended actions to mitigate Negative impact* or further promote Positive impact	Outcomes and monitoring**	Timescale	Lead officer
Increase in rent and service charges	Negative impact on most groups.	That the increases are covered through welfare benefits. Letters and advice provided to tenants on UC.	That increases in rent and service charges are covered by Universal Credit and Housing Benefit.	Within one month of the increase.	Evonne Hudson, AD Housing Management

**Add further rows as necessary**

\* You should include details of any future consultations and any actions to be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts

\*\* Monitoring: You should state how the impact (positive or negative) will be monitored; what outcome measures will be used; the known (or likely) data source for outcome measurements; how regularly it will be monitored; and who will be monitoring it (if this is different from the lead officer).

## 5. Review

In this section you should identify how frequently the EqHIA will be reviewed; the date for next review; and who will be reviewing it.

**Review:**

The assessment will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**Scheduled date of review:** February 2020

**Lead Officer conducting the review:** Patrick Odling-Smee

**Please submit the completed form via e-mail to [EqHIA@havering.gov.uk](mailto:EqHIA@havering.gov.uk) thank you.**

# Appendix 1. Guidance on Undertaking an EqHIA

**This Guidance can be deleted prior to publication.**

## What is it?

The Equality & Health Impact Assessment (EqHIA) is a tool to ensure that your activity meets the needs of individuals and groups that use your service, whilst at the same time ensuring a person's chance of leading a healthy life is the same wherever they live and whoever they are. We want to ensure that the activities of the Council are 'fit for purpose' and meet the needs of Havering's increasingly diverse communities and employees. This robust and systematic EqHIA process ensures that any potential detrimental effects or discrimination is identified, removed, or mitigated and positive impacts are enhanced.

## When to Assess:

An EqHIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy, strategy or function; for simplicity, these are referred to as an "activity" throughout this document. It is best to conduct the assessment as early as possible in the decision-making process.

### Guidance: Equality & Health Impact Assessment Checklist

The Checklist in Section 1 asks the key questions,

**4a) Are you changing, introducing a new, or removing a service, policy, strategy or function?**

**4b) Does this activity (policy/strategy/service/decision) have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon people (9 protected characteristics)?**

**4c) Does this activity (policy/strategy/service/decision) have the potential to impact (either positively or negatively) upon any factors which determine people's health and wellbeing?**

- If the answer to ANY of the questions 4a, 4b or 4c of the Checklist is 'YES' then you must carry out an assessment. e.g. Proposed changes to Contact Centre Opening Hours  
'YES' = you need to carry out an EqHIA
- If the answer to ALL of the questions, 4a or 4b of the Checklist is NO, then you do not need to carry out an EqHIA assessment. e.g. Quarterly Performance Report  
'NO' = you DO NOT need to carry out an EqHIA. Please provide a clear explanation as to why you consider an EqHIA is not required for your activity.

## Using the Checklist

The assessment should take into account all the potential impacts of the proposed activity, be it a major financial decision, or a seemingly simple policy change. Considering and completing this EqHIA will ensure that all Council plans, strategies, policies, procedures, services or other activity comply with relevant statutory obligations and responsibilities. In particular it helps the Council to meet its legal obligation under the [Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty](#) and its public health duties under the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).



## Having Due Regard

To have due regard means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities, the Council must consciously consider the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes

## Combining Equality and Health Impact Assessment:

[Equality Impact Assessments \(EIAs\)](#) provide a systematic way of ensuring that legal obligations are met. They assess whether a proposed policy, procedure, service change or plan will affect people different on the basis of their 'protected characteristics' and if it will affect their human rights. Currently there are **nine protected characteristics** (previously known as 'equality groups' or 'equality strands'): age, disability, sex/gender, ethnicity/race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, and pregnancy/ maternity/paternity.

An activity does not need to impact on all 9 protected characteristics – impacting on just one is sufficient justification to complete an EqHIA.

[Health Impact Assessments \(HIAs\)](#) consider the potential impact of any change or amendment to a policy, service, plan, procedure or programme on the health and wellbeing of the population. HIAs help identify how people may be affected differently on the basis of where they live and potential impacts on health inequalities and health equity by assessing the distribution of potential effects within the population, particularly within vulnerable groups. 'Health' is not restricted to medical conditions, or the provision of health services, but rather encompasses the wide range of influences on people's health and wellbeing. This includes, but is not limited to, experience of discrimination, access to transport, housing, education, employment - known as the 'wider determinants of health'.

This [Equality and Health Impact Assessment \(EqHIA\)](#) brings together both impact assessments into a single tool which will result in a set of recommendations to eliminate discrimination and inequality; enhance potential positive impacts and mitigate where possible for negative impacts. In conducting this EqHIA you will need to assess the impact (positive, neutral or negative) of your activity on individuals and groups with **protected characteristics** (this includes staff delivering your activity), **socio-economic status** and **health & wellbeing**. Guidance on what to include in each section is given on the next pages.

### Guidance: What to include in background/context

In this section you will need to add the background/context of your activity, i.e. what is the activity intending to do, and why?

Make sure you include the scope and intended outcomes of the activity being assessed; and highlight any proposed changes. Please include a brief rationale for your activity and any supporting evidence for the proposal. Some questions to consider:

- What is the aim, objectives and intended outcomes?
- How does this activity meet the needs of the local population?
- Has this activity been implemented in another area? What were the outcomes?
- Is this activity being implemented as per best practice guidelines?
- Who were the key stakeholders in this activity?

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Who will be affected by the activity?

The people who will be affected may be

**Residents:** pay particular attention to vulnerable groups in the population who may be affected by this activity

**Businesses/ manufacturing / developers / small, medium or large enterprises**

**Employees:** e.g. Council staff for an internal activity, other statutory or voluntary sector employees, local businesses and services

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: What to include in assessing a Protected Characteristic e.g. AGE

Please tick (✓) the relevant box:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

**Overall impact:** In this section you will need to consider and note what impact your activity will have on individuals and groups (including staff) with protected characteristics based on the data and information you have. You should note whether this is a positive, neutral or negative impact.

**It is essential that you note all negative impacts. This will demonstrate that you have paid 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty if your activity is challenged under the Equality Act.**

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Evidence:** In this section you will need to document the evidence that you have used to assess the impact of your activity.

When assessing the impact, please consider and note how your activity contributes to the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as stated in the section above.

It is essential that you note the full impact of your activity, so you can demonstrate that you have fully considered the equality implications and have paid 'due regard' to the PSED should the Council be challenged.

- If you have identified a **positive impact**, please note this.
- If you think there is a **neutral impact** or the impact is not known, please provide a full reason why this is the case.
- If you have identified a **negative impact**, please note what steps you will take to mitigate this impact. If you are unable to take any mitigating steps, please provide a full reason why. All negative impacts that have mitigating actions must be recorded in the **Action Plan**.
- **Please ensure that appropriate consultation with affected parties has been undertaken and evidenced**

**Sources used:** In this section you should list all sources of the evidence you used to assess the impact of your activity. This can include:

- Service specific data
- Population, demographic and socio-economic data. Suggested sources include:
  - o Service user monitoring data that your service collects
  - o [Havering Data Intelligence Hub](#)
  - o [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)

If you do not have any relevant data, please provide the reason why.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: What to include in assessing Health & Wellbeing Impact:

Please tick (✓) all the relevant boxes that apply:

**Positive**

**Neutral**

**Negative**

**Overall impact:** In this section you will need to consider and note whether the proposal could have an overall impact on, or implications for, people's health and wellbeing or any factors which determine people's health.

How will the activity help address inequalities in health?

Include here a brief outline of what could be done to enhance the positive impacts and, where possible, mitigate for the negative impacts.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Do you consider that a more in-depth HIA is required as a result of this brief assessment?** Please tick (✓) the relevant box

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Evidence:** In this section you will need to outline in more detail how you came to your conclusions above:

- What is the nature of the impact?
- Is the impact **positive** or **negative**? It is possible for an activity to have **both positive and negative impacts**. Consider here whether people will be able to access the service being offered; improve or maintain healthy lifestyles; improve their opportunities for employment/income; whether and how it will affect the environment in which they live (housing, access to parks & green space); what the impact on the family, social support and community networks might be
- What can be done to mitigate the negative impacts and/or enhance the positive impacts?
- If you think there is a **neutral impact**, or the impact is not known, please provide a brief reason why this is the case.
- What is the likelihood of the impact? Will the impact(s) be in weeks, months or years? In some cases the short-term risks to health may be worth the longer term benefits.
- Will the proposal affect different groups of people in different ways? A proposal that is likely to benefit one section of the community may not benefit others and could lead to inequalities in health.

**Please use the Health & Wellbeing Impact Tool in Appendix 2 as a guide/checklist to assess the potential wider determinants of health impacts.**

This tool will help guide your thinking as to what factors affect people's health and wellbeing, such as social support, their housing conditions, access to transport, employment, education, crime and disorder and environmental factors. It is not an exhaustive list, merely a tool to guide your assessment; there may be other factors specific to your activity.

Some questions you may wish to ask include:

- Will the activity impact on people's ability to socialise, potentially leading to social isolation?
- Will the activity affect a person's income and/or have an effect on their housing status?
- Is the activity likely to cause the recipient of a service more or less stress?
- Will any change in the service take into account different needs, such as those with learning difficulties?
- Will the activity affect the health and wellbeing of persons not directly related to the service/activity, such as carers, family members, other residents living nearby?
- If there is a short-term negative effect, what will be done to minimise the impact as much as possible?

- Are the longer-term impacts positive or negative? What will be done to either promote the positive effects or minimise the negative effects?
- Do the longer term positive outcomes outweigh the short term impacts?

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

**Sources used:** In this section you should list all sources of the evidence you used to assess the impact of your activity. This could include, e.g.:

Information on the population affected

- Routinely collected local statistics (e.g. quality of life, health status, unemployment, crime, air quality, educational attainment, transport etc.)
- Local research/ Surveys of local conditions
- Community profiles

Wider Evidence

- Published Research, including evidence about similar proposals implemented elsewhere (e.g. Case Studies).
- Predictions from local or national models
- Locally commissioned research by statutory/voluntary/private organisations

Expert Opinion

- Views of residents and professionals with local knowledge and insight

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Outcome of the Assessment

On reflection, what is your overall assessment of the activity?

The purpose of conducting this assessment is to offer an opportunity to think, reflect and **improve** the proposed activity. It will make sure that the Council can evidence that it has considered its due regard to equality and health & wellbeing to its best ability.

It is not expected that all proposals will be immediately without negative impacts! However, where these arise, what actions can be taken to mitigate against potential negative effects, or further promote the positive impacts?

Please tick one of the 3 boxes in this section to indicate whether you think:

1. all equality and health impacts are adequately addressed in the activity – proceed with your activity pending all other relevant approval processes
2. the assessment identified some negative impacts which could be addressed – please complete the Action Plan in Section 4.
3. If the assessment reveals some significant concerns, this is the time to stop and re-think, making sure that we spend our Council resources wisely and fairly. There is no shame in stopping a proposal.

\*Note that the boxes will expand as required

## Guidance: Action Plan

For each protected characteristic/health & wellbeing impact where an impact on people or their lives has been identified, complete one row of the action plan. You can add as many further rows as required.

State whether the impact is Positive or Negative

Briefly outline the actions that can be taken to mitigate against the negative impact or further enhance a positive impact. These actions could be to make changes to the activity itself (service, proposal, strategy etc.) or to make contingencies/alterations in the setting/environment where the activity will take place.

For example, might staff need additional training in communicating effectively with people with learning difficulties, if a new service is opened specifically targeting those people? Is access to the service fair and equitable? What will the impact on other service users be? How can we ensure equity of access to the service by all users? Will any signage need changing? Does the building where the service being delivered comply with disability regulations?

## Guidance: Review

Changes happen all the time! A service/strategy/policy/activity that is appropriate at one time, may no longer be appropriate as the environment around us changes. This may be changes in our population, growth and makeup, legislative changes, environmental changes or socio-political changes.

Although we can't predict what's going to happen in the future, a review is recommended to ensure that what we are delivering as a Council is still the best use of our limited resources. The timescale for review will be dependent on the scale of the activity.

A major financial investment may require a review every 2-3 years for a large scale regeneration project over 10-15 years.

A small policy change may require a review in 6 months to assess whether there are any unintended outcomes of such a change.

Please indicate here how frequently it is expected to review your activity and a brief justification as to why this timescale is recommended.

## Appendix 2. Health & Wellbeing Impact Tool

Will the activity/service/policy/procedure affect any of the following characteristics? Please tick/check the boxes below

The following are a range of considerations that might help you to complete the assessment.

Lifestyle YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Personal circumstances YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Access to services/facilities/amenities YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diet <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise and physical activity <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure to passive smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol intake <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency on prescription drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Illicit drug and substance use <input type="checkbox"/> Risky Sexual behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Other health-related behaviours, such as tooth-brushing, bathing, and wound care	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure and cohesion of family unit <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood development <input type="checkbox"/> Life skills <input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety <input type="checkbox"/> Employment status <input type="checkbox"/> Working conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Level of income, including benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Level of disposable income <input type="checkbox"/> Housing tenure <input type="checkbox"/> Housing conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Educational attainment <input type="checkbox"/> Skills levels including literacy and numeracy	<input type="checkbox"/> to Employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> to Workplaces <input type="checkbox"/> to Housing <input type="checkbox"/> to Shops (to supply basic needs) <input type="checkbox"/> to Community facilities <input type="checkbox"/> to Public transport <input type="checkbox"/> to Education <input type="checkbox"/> to Training and skills development <input type="checkbox"/> to Healthcare <input type="checkbox"/> to Social services <input type="checkbox"/> to Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> to Respite care <input type="checkbox"/> to Leisure and recreation services and facilities
Social Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Factors YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Social contact <input type="checkbox"/> Social support <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourliness <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the community <input type="checkbox"/> Membership of community groups <input type="checkbox"/> Reputation of community/area <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in public affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Level of crime and disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of crime and disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Level of antisocial behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of antisocial behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Public safety measures <input type="checkbox"/> Road safety measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Creation of wealth <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of wealth <input type="checkbox"/> Retention of wealth in local area/economy <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution of income <input type="checkbox"/> Business activity <input type="checkbox"/> Job creation <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of education opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of education opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of training and skills development opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of training and skills development opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Technological development <input type="checkbox"/> Amount of traffic congestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Soil quality/Level of contamination/Odour <input type="checkbox"/> Noise levels <input type="checkbox"/> Vibration <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Land use <input type="checkbox"/> Natural habitats <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape, including green and open spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Townscape, including civic areas and public realm <input type="checkbox"/> Use/consumption of natural resources <input type="checkbox"/> Energy use: CO2/other greenhouse gas emissions <input type="checkbox"/> Solid waste management <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport infrastructure