

Community Impact Assessment

Name and description of project, policy or service	
Full review of the Allocations Policy which will lead to the way we deliver the service going forward.	
Identifying the impact of this project, policy or service on the community and environment	
<p>On the community in general e.g. social or economic benefits, negative impacts</p>	<p>Positive - The Allocations Policy is now written in plain English and has been significantly reduced so it is easier to read and understand. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that social housing is provided for those most in need.</p> <p>On a community level the majority of people that will benefit from this change to policy will be those that are living in the Borough where there housing conditions do not currently meet their need.</p> <p>Negative - Potential risk around perception with the removal of the deferred register. This will be addressed through a clear implementation plan that outlines reasons behind these decisions.</p>
<p>On the council as an organisation e.g. on staff, services or assets</p>	<p>Positive - A stronger approach to managing our stock and nominations to housing associations. Streamlined procedures and reduction in administration means we can dedicate resources more effectively.</p> <p>There will be a reduction on the contact required to applicants by post and other means as no longer maintaining a deferred register where roughly 6000 applicants must be contacted on a yearly basis.</p> <p>Negative - Potential increase in footfall when communication first reaches applicants about the removal of the deferred register. We will offset this by signposting people to alternative methods of contact and utilising key contact points such as the Moving with Dacorum site.</p>
<p>On the protected characteristics Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation (Specify where impacts are different for different characteristics)</p>	<p>Positive - The Allocations Policy has been reviewed by external counsel and is considered lawful. The policy has been amended to ensure that all groups within the community have fair access to social and affordable housing and is fully compliant with the Equality and Diversity Act 2010.</p> <p>Those living in the Mother and baby will have an easier route into housing reducing any additional stress or pressure.</p> <p>Negative - There could be an increase in individuals that do not have a local connection being housed in the Borough as under the local connection criteria we have included that where the requirement of a local connection may infringe equality and</p>

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	diversity legislation (e.g. Equality Act 2010). These applications will be considered on a case by case basis by the Housing Panel.	
On the environment e.g. effects on the climate, trees, amenity space, biodiversity, water, energy, waste, material use, air quality	Positive- Reduction in postage as primary way of communication with applicants to inform of any changes to policy will be via bulk messaging on the Moving with Dacorum site. Going forward, the supporting procedures will support the wider approach to channel shift.	
On the specific target community / location e.g. if the project is based in a specific area or targeted community group	n/a	
Outline the approach you took to identify the need for this project, policy or service. Please include use of research, data and consultation with residents and/or staff.		
<p>To facilitate the review of the Allocations Policy the housing service undertook a significant amount of consultation. This included surveying applicants, those who have recently been allocated a property and the Tenant and Leaseholder Committee.</p> <p>In addition to tenants, each team within the Housing Service took part in a focus group. The purpose of this was to understand the potential impact of the proposed changes to other service areas. Resident Services were also involved to ensure the policy complimented the corporate approach to managing Anti-Social Behaviour.</p> <p>The results of the consultations were considered when drafting the new Allocations Policy.</p>		
Which commitment(s) does this policy, project or service support from the Equality and Diversity CIH Charter Housing Framework?		
The policy has been written in line with CIH Charter Housing Framework. This is further supported by Counsels review of the policy and acknowledgement that it is fully lawful and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.		
How will you review the impact, positive or negative once the project, policy or service is implemented?		
This will be monitored on a regular basis throughout the lifetime of the policy in line with changes in regulations and service/demand requirements		Strategic Housing Team Leader and Strategic Housing group Manager

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Completed by:

Manager:

Name: Tracy Vause

Role: Strategic Housing Team Leader

Date: 27 October 2017

Reviewed and signed off by relevant Group

Name: Natasha Brathwaite

Role: Group Manager, Strategic Housing

Date: 27 October 2017