

Thanet District Council (TDC) Equality Impact Assessment

Step one: test for relevance

1 Person responsible for this assessment

Name:	Ashley Jackson		
Job title:	Head of Housing & Planning		
Phone:	01843 577280		
Service area:	Housing and Planning	Date of assessment:	03.09.2024

2 Others involved in carrying out the analysis

Name:	Mark James (Strategic Housing Manager)
Name:	Naomi Palmer (Acquisitions Manager)
Name:	

3. Description of strategy, policy, service, project, activity or decision

Title:	Purchase by Thanet District Council of 11 homes, constructed by Vistry, for Temporary Accommodation
--------	---

Is it new?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> *	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
A review of existing?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/> *

3.1 Aims and objectives

Consider: **what** you are doing? **why** you are doing it? **who** will benefit?

Following previous acquisitions from Vistry through the Local Authority Housing Fund, the COuncil has approached the developer again to see if it had any homes almost ready to be4 occupied that it could acquire for temporary accommodation. It has secured 11 such homes. Temporary accommodation numbers are rising and there is a need for more accommodation in the district under our ownership.

This paper will go to OSP and Cabinet, and a separate paper will go to Council to agree the additional borrowing required in the capital programme to secure these homes.

3.2 What outcomes are expected? Who is expected to benefit?

The additional 11 homes will benefit those households who are in need of TA and assistance from the Local Authority. The homes will be allocated as per the council's temporary accommodation allocation policy that was agreed by Cabinet members in July 2024.

4 Who is affected?

4.1 Which groups or individuals does the strategy, policy, service, project, activity or decision affect? For example, the Council, employees (including temporary workers), other public authorities, contractors, partner organisations, wider community, others.

This decision affects households who have approached us under the Homeless Act.

4.2 Does the strategy, policy, service, project, activity or decision relate to a service area with known inequalities? (Give a brief description).

A common theme is that low income households are more likely to find themselves in housing need. Housing need is, therefore, likely to be greater for those people who share protected characteristics who live in poverty.

5 Equality Act 2010

How does the strategy, policy, service, project, activity or decision actively meet the public sector equality duties to:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination (including harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct)

The proposal to purchase additional housing units to provide sought after, in-area Temporary Accommodation is not unlawfully discriminatory to those households who approach us as homeless.

Advance equality of opportunity (between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it)

The proposal to purchase the temporary accommodation units aims to promote balanced, inclusive and sustainable communities that benefit all.

Foster good relations (between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it). Could it have an adverse impact on relations between different diverse groups?

The proposal to purchase additional units is inclusive and aims to blend communities together on a subject that everyone empathises with. Fostering good relations with those within the protected characteristics classifications, for instance in relation to meeting housing needs for all groups, is vital.

6 Priority

The following questions will help you to identify whether this 'service' is a high priority. Please answer all questions with particular reference to the protected characteristics; race, gender, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, marriage and civil marriage/partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Please provide a comment for each answer, providing evidence for your answer, regardless whether you have answered yes or no.

Questions	Yes	No
1. Are there any particular groups who may have trouble accessing the 'service'?	*	
Comments: The new units of accommodation are only available to those households who have been identified as being homeless. Therefore it excludes those who do not have a housing need or are not homeless.		
2. Does your information suggest that some groups of people are less satisfied than others with this 'service'?		*
Comments:		
3. Will this service have a significant impact on any of our residents?	*	
Comments: This purchase will have significant impact on families and households who are experiencing difficulties with their housing situation, especially those who have approached us for assistance due to homelessness.		
4. Do you have any evidence that discrimination, harassment and/or victimisation could occur as part of this service?		*
Comments: No discrimination, harassment or victimisation will occur because of these purchases.		
5. Do you think the service will hinder communication and negatively impact relations between the organisation and its employees, residents, contractors or anyone else?		*
Comments: No, this purchase will not hinder communication or negatively impact relations.		
6. Does this service need to improve the way in which it is communicated to people who have literacy, numeracy or any other access needs?		*
Comments:		
7. Does consultation need to be carried out?		*
Comments:		

In order to assess the priority of your **'service'** please complete the table below by adding up how many questions you answered yes to and following the appropriate action.

Priority	Number of questions answered 'yes'	Rating	Action
High	3 or more		Continue to section 2
Medium	1 to 2		Please provide evidence to any questions you answered 'yes' to in section 1. Test for relevance complete (sometimes a full assessment may be required).
Low	0		Test for relevance complete.

If, following the completion of the test for relevance, a full assessment is not required, go straight to the declaration. If a full assessment is required, go to Step two: full equality impact assessment.

Step two: full equality impact assessment

1 Could the strategy, policy, service, project, activity or decision have a **negative, positive or neutral** effect on groups or individuals?

Consider:

What you are doing?

Why you are doing it?

How you are doing it?

Who can access the service easily and who may not be able to access the service and **why**?

The full analysis explores ways to reduce or eliminate barriers and/or negative impacts.

Protected characteristics	N e g a t i v e	P o s i t i v e	N e u t r a l	<p align="center">Evidence/Reasoning</p> <p align="center">(Consider any barriers which will have negative impact and/or good practices giving positive impact)</p>
<p>Age</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The way younger and older people access services may be different <input type="checkbox"/> Use of technology <input type="checkbox"/> Child care/care of other dependant <input type="checkbox"/> Timings/flexibility, such as work patterns <input type="checkbox"/> Transport arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Venue location 				<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Certain groups of children are at higher risk of living in poverty, including deaf and disabled children and those from single parent families. Proposals which increase the number of affordable homes and temporary accommodation homes being acquired could benefit these households and help to reduce this inequality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and sustainability standards are likely to benefit children by reducing the physical and mental health issues related to poor quality housing, such as cold and damp and poor air quality. <p>In addition, increasing the provision of play space within housing developments will be of direct benefit to children and younger people.</p> <p>Younger people</p> <p>Younger people are more likely to be unemployed than adults aged between 25 and 64 and are more likely to face higher housing costs, relative to income. Proposals which increase the number of affordable homes and temporary accommodation homes being acquired and the affordability of those homes could benefit these households and help to reduce this inequality.</p>
<p>Disability (Includes: physical, learning, sensory (deaf/blind), mental health)</p>				<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Households containing people with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty. Proposals which</p>

<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Communication methods ☐ Accessibility – venue, location, transport ☐ Range of support needed to participate ☐ Hearing Loops/Interpreters ☐ Disability awareness training for employees 			<p>increase the number of affordable homes and temporary accommodation homes being acquired and the affordability of those homes could benefit these households and help to reduce this inequality.</p> <p>Design and sustainability standards in the new homes acquired are likely to benefit deaf and disabled people by reducing the physical and mental health issues related to poor quality housing, such as cold and damp and poor air quality.</p>
<p>Race (Includes; gypsy, travelling, refugee and migrant communities)</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ The size of the BME communities that your service/project affects. ☐ Language(s) spoken/understood. ☐ Culture, such as hygiene, clothing, physical activities, mixed gender activities. ☐ What access support can you offer? 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups are more likely to experience poverty, are less likely to own their own home and are disproportionately affected by overcrowding. Proposals which increase the number of affordable homes and temporary accommodation homes being acquired and the affordability of those homes could benefit these households and help to reduce this inequality.</p>
<p>Religion, faith or belief</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ The diversity within the communities that your service/project affect ☐ Prayer times, meal times, food (some religions do not eat meat), cultural habit or belief, religious holidays such as Ramadan ☐ Awareness training for employees 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The limited availability of data on the extent to which those who hold a particular religion or belief (including no religion or belief) are subject to particular housing problems, makes it difficult to reliably identify potential impacts.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Flexible hours of the service/project ☐ Is there access to private area for breastfeeding mothers? 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The limited availability of specific data on this group makes it hard to identify impacts, beyond those that affect households including children.</p>

<p>Gender</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ The impact on men and women ☐ Child care/care of other dependant ☐ Mixed/single gender groups/activities ☐ Timing of services/projects 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Women are more likely to be economically inactive, low paid, and/or subject to the poverty that affects single parent families. Female-headed households are also more vulnerable to statutory homelessness. Proposals which increase the number of affordable homes and temporary accommodation homes being acquired and the affordability of those homes could benefit these households and help to reduce this inequality.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation (Includes: lesbian, gay, bisexual)</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ LGB people should feel safe to disclose their sexual orientation without fear of prejudice ☐ Make it clear you recognised civil marriage and partnerships ☐ Awareness training for employees 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>There is an absence of data on the extent to which those who identify as LGBTQ+ experience difficulties covering housing costs or occupy particular types of housing. There is evidence that those who are LGBTQ+ may experience discrimination when seeking to rent or buy a home. Younger LGBTQ+ people are also more vulnerable to homelessness. There is also evidence of demand from older LGBTQ+ people for specialist provision care and retirement housing. The provision of more affordable and temporary housing, and specialist housing in particular, may therefore benefit this group.</p>
<p>Transgender</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Trans people should be able to disclose their gender identity without fear of prejudice ☐ Making it clear you have a Trans policy and process ☐ Awareness training for employees 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The limited availability of specific data on this group makes it hard to identify impacts,</p>
<p>Marriage and civil marriage/partnership</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ All couples or partners, regardless of gender, should be able to access services 			<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The limited availability of data on the extent to which those who married or in a civil partnership are subject to particular housing problems, makes it difficult to reliably identify potential impacts.</p>

Outsourced services	
If your policy/process is partly or wholly provided by external organisations/agencies (such as Civica or Capita), please list any arrangements you plan to ensure that they promote equality and diversity. Include this in your improvement plan	N/A
Relations between different equality groups	
Does your assessment show that a strategy, policy or process may amount to potential adverse impact between different equality groups? If yes please explain how the improvement plan is going to tackle this issue	No
Consultation responses	
Summary of replies from individuals and stakeholders consulted including any previous complaints on equality and diversity issues about the strategy, policy or process	N/A

Summary of recommendations		
Actions	By Who	By When
Work with communications to ensure effective management of clear messages.	Housing Strategy & Projects Team	July 2025

Declaration


I am satisfied that a Test for Relevance has been carried out on the matter named in this Analysis and conclude that a full Equality Impact Assessment **is not required**.

Yes No

If you do not think that a full Equality Impact Assessment is required – please give your reasons:

I confirm that a full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

Yes No

Signature of Head of Service:	Date:
	5th September 2024

Recommendations agreed:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------	---

Signed: (Director):	EIA date:
------------------------	-----------