

# Equality Impact Initial Assessment Form

<b>Division</b>	<b>Community and Housing / Housing Division</b>
<b>Name of assessor</b>	<b>Angela Chu Housing Strategy Manager</b>
<b>Date of assessment</b>	<b>18th May 2012</b>
<b>Title function/policy/service to be assessed</b>	<b>Housing Strategy 2012-2015</b>

<b>1. Describe the aims / objectives and purpose of the function or policy</b>	The Housing Strategy 2011-2015 outlines local housing needs and demand as well as housing supply, identify gaps in services and provisions, and set out how to make best use of scarce resources to meet needs.
<b>2. Are there any other functions, policies or services, which might be linked with this one</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merton's Housing Strategy 2011-2015 is linked to other supporting strategies such as the Homelessness Strategy and Gypsies &amp; Travellers Strategy</li> <li>▪ The Housing Strategy also contributes to other local plans such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LDF Core Strategy</li> <li>▪ The Housing Strategy also links to the council's Allocations / Nominations Policy and the emerging Tenancy Strategy</li> <li>▪ It is a requirement in the GLA Act 2007 that local housing strategies of London boroughs must be in "General Conformity" with the London Housing Strategy</li> <li>▪ The Housing Strategy also takes into account proposals set out in the government's Housing Strategy "Laying the Foundation"</li> </ul>
<b>3. Who will benefit from this policy / service /function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Merton residents in housing need such as homeless households or low and middle income households unable to afford market housing</li> <li>▪ Vulnerable people needing supported housing, move-on accommodation, or support to enable them to live independently</li> </ul>

## COMMUNITY AND HOUSING

<b>4. Who was consulted</b>	The LSG was consulted on the key issues and principles to be set out in this Strategy in July 2011. The Strategy was then released for public consultation through a Housing Conference attended by over 100 delegates in September 2011.
-----------------------------	---

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neither	Reason / Comment / Evidence
<b>Age</b>	✓			<p>Objective 2 of the Strategy sets out priorities and actions that will have a positive impact on Young People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More move-on accommodation for young single homeless people through increased quota for permanent housing</li> <li>▪ Improvements of YMCA &amp; MASH hostels for young single homeless people</li> <li>▪ Pathway project to independence for young people affected by “repeat” or “sustained” homelessness.</li> </ul> <p>Objectives 3 &amp; 4 of the Strategy set out priorities and actions that will have a positive impact on Older People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More new build housing options for older people</li> <li>▪ Rental scheme for older owner-occupiers with support needs</li> <li>▪ Rental scheme for older owner-occupiers will contribute to improvement their health</li> <li>▪ Services to support older people to remain living in their own home.</li> <li>▪ Grant resources to install adaptations for older people with disabilities</li> <li>▪ Improving condition of homes to Decent Homes standard in the social and the private sector will help improve the health of older people</li> </ul>
<b>Disability</b>	✓			<p>Objective 3 of the Strategy sets out priorities and actions that will have a positive impact on People with Disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More supported housing provision for people with learning disabilities</li> <li>▪ Placements with ‘Shared Lives’ carers will provide supported living for people with learning disabilities and mental issues, and will help</li> </ul>

## COMMUNITY AND HOUSING

				<p>them gain independent living skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More move-on accommodation for people with special needs through increased quota for permanent housing</li> <li>▪ Services to support people with disabilities to remain living in their own home</li> <li>▪ More homes to be built to Lifetime Homes and Wheelchair Accessible standard</li> </ul>
<b>Gender</b>		✓		The Housing Strategy does not contain initiatives or actions that target either male or female.
<b>Race</b>		✓		<p>Objectives 2, 3 &amp; 4 of the Strategy sets out priorities and actions that will have a positive impact on BME communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A specific actions to target all homelessness initiatives to BME communities as they are more likely to be in housing needs or be threatened with homelessness</li> <li>▪ The A10 Project will assist minority groups from Eastern European countries</li> <li>▪ Publication of Gypsies &amp; Travellers will benefit the whole of the Gypsy &amp; Traveller community in Merton</li> <li>▪ The development of new Agreement for the Caravan Site at Brickfield Road will benefit site residents</li> </ul>
<b>Religion / belief</b>			✓	No data is available to enable the analysis of possible impact of this Strategy on Religion and Belief
<b>Sexuality</b>			✓	No data is available to enable the analysis of possible impact of this Strategy on Sexuality
Please give a brief description of how this policy benefits the equality target groups identified in the above table ie promotes equality?		<p>The Housing Strategy 2012-2015 helps promote equality through the specific objective developed to “Meet the needs of Vulnerable People and Minority Groups” (Objective 3). Priorities and actions are set out under this objective to improve services and provisions for these equality client groups. In addition, Objective 2 on “Preventing &amp; Addressing Homelessness” also involves priorities and actions that will benefit young people and BME groups. Details on how this Strategy will benefit the equality target groups are set out above.</p>		
If there is a negative impact on any equality target group, is the impact		No.		

## COMMUNITY AND HOUSING

<p>target group, is the impact intended or legal? <i>If no, then full Equality Impact Assessment should be completed.</i></p>	
<p>What actions could be taken to amend the policy/service to minimise the low negative impact?</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>If there is no evidence that the policy/service promotes equality, equal opportunities or improves relations within equality target groups, what amendments could be made to achieve this?</p>	<p>N/a</p>

**Recommendation**

Full Equality Impact Assessment required:      No

Signed by Manager of assessor *SF Langley.*

Equality Group scrutiny date

Equality group recommendation