



209

Form to be used for the Full Equalities Impact Assessment

Service Area: Environmental Development		Section: Environmental Health	Date of Initial assessment: 31/08/2015	Key Person responsible for assessment: Adrian Chowns	Date assessment commenced: 07/09/2015	
Name of Policy to be assessed:			CEB Report: Results of Consultation of HMO Licensing			
1. In what area are there concerns that the policy could have a differential impact			Race		Disability	
			Gender		Religion or Belief	
Other strategic/ equalities considerations			Safeguarding/ Welfare of Children and vulnerable adults		Mental Wellbeing/ Community Resilience	
					Marriage & Civil Partnership	

<p>2. Background:</p> <p>Give the background information to the policy and the perceived problems with the policy which are the reason for the Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>A statutory consultation project of 10 weeks is now complete and the new scheme (if approved) will be required to be designated and advertised for a minimum 12 weeks. The delivery of this is governed by extremely tight timescales and Phase 1 of the Scheme is due to expire in January 2016. Failure to make a new designation could result in certain parts of the sector being regulated and other parts not regulated. This may also put all occupiers of these type of HMOs at risk.</p>
<p>3. Methodology and Sources of Data:</p> <p>The methods used to collect data and what sources of data</p>	<p>An assessment on the proportion of landlords from BME groups has indicated that 25% are of Asian origin. This group make up 10% of the population of Oxford as a whole. This remains the case following the completion of the consultation.</p> <p>The profile of the PRS in Oxford has changed considerably since the introduction of the Scheme. Oxford is now the least affordable City to live in and has the highest proportion of young people. High house prices create a situation where they are unlikely to be able to access home ownership consequently the PRS is the most viable option and sharing reduces the cost of accommodation further.</p>
<p>4. Consultation</p> <p>This section should outline all the consultation that has taken place on the EIA. It should include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why you carried out the consultation. • Details about how you went about it. • A summary of the replies you received from people you consulted. • An assessment of your proposed policy (or policy options) in the 	<p>If the recommendations of the CEB report are supported then officers will proceed with the 12 week statutory designation and public notices will be released in accordance with the legislation.</p>

<p>light of the responses you received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement of what you plan to do next 	
<p>5. Assessment of Impact:</p> <p>Provide details of the assessment of the policy on the six primary equality strands. There may have been other groups or individuals that you considered. Please also consider whether the policy, strategy or spending decisions could have an impact on safeguarding and / or the welfare of children and vulnerable adults</p>	<p>The project is based on the need to fulfil the requirements of national legislation. A key consideration is to ensure that the statutory designation is made and advertised for 12 weeks..</p> <p>Data gathered will assist in informing the impact on target groups such as landlords from BME groups, tenants, students and migrants. The levels of impact vary across each group with 25% of BME landlords operating HMOs, young people likely to access this type of accommodation, the increase in families living in HMOs and vulnerable groups being the key considerations.</p> <p>In regulating HMOs, owners and agents who are regulated against may feel that they have been adversely impacted upon. However there are no other ways in which the service could be provided that would achieve these aims without adverse impact. Ultimately, when working within the legislative framework, people have a right to legal redress should they feel that a decision was unfairly/unlawfully taken; this can be via an appeal process or the Council's Complaints system.</p>
<p>6. Consideration of Measures:</p> <p>This section should explain in detail all the consideration of alternative approaches/mitigation of adverse impact of the policy</p>	<p>The key groups that are likely to affected by these proposals have been identified and a consultation project developed to address the implications of the scheme. The proposed approach to consultation has been set out by the recent PIB report and approved. The report setting out recommendations will be considered by CEB and if approved the consultation will be conducted in accordance with the project plan approved.</p>

6a. Monitoring Arrangements:					
Outline systems which will be put in place to monitor for adverse impact in the future and this should include all relevant timetables. In addition it could include a summary and assessment of your monitoring, making clear whether you found any evidence of discrimination.		<p>The fee and charges structure associated with licensing of HMOs has been reviewed following the consultation and developed taking account of the impact this has on landlords generally.</p> <p>When enforcement activity is carried out each case is reviewed to ensure that the Council is being fair, consistent and proportionate in its approach. This review ensures that the impact of particular groups is monitored. Feedback is also obtained from relevant groups.</p>			
7. 12. Date reported and signed off by City Executive Board:					
8. Conclusions:		Additional licensing remains a viable option for the City and is the best course of action for dealing with the problems associated with HMOs in Oxford.			
What are your conclusions drawn from the results in terms of the policy impact					
9. Are there implications for the Service Plans?	YES		10. Date the Service Plans will be updated	2015/2016	11. Date copy sent to Equalities Officer in HR & Facilities
13. Date reported to Scrutiny and Executive Board:			14. Date reported to City Executive Board:		12. The date the report on EqlA will be published

Signed (completing officer)

Signed (Lead Officer)

Please list the team members and service areas that were involved in this process:

Organisational Development & Learning Advisor/ Equalities

213

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