



# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (March 2017)

**Section 1: Your details**

**EIA lead Officer:** Sheila Jacobs

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**Head of Section:** Lisa Newman

**Chief Officer:** Alan Evans

**Directorate:** Economic and Housing Growth

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?**

**Wirral Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025**

**Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Committee meeting?**

**Yes**                      **If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**

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**Please select hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website (please select appropriate link & delete those not relevant)**

**Strategy** (Health & Care, Intelligence, Communications, Growth, Health & Wellbeing, Strategy, Environment, Schools Commission, Housing Commission)  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-0>

**Section 3:** Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ **Services**
- ✓ **The workforce**
- ✓ **Communities**
- ✓ **Other (Landlords)**

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:**

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation	<p>Wirral's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 sets out the actions to be taken to reduce levels of homelessness across the borough.</p> <p>A reduction in levels of rough sleeping (<i>and the associated anti-social behaviour such as street drinking, aggressive begging etc.</i>) should have a positive effect on anti-social behaviour over the long term. This may have a positive impact for older people, disabled people, people with a BME origin and those who may be persecuted for their religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.</p> <p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy recommends a series of actions to</p>	No negative impacts	Sheila Jacobs	Ongoing	None

	<p>increase the range of housing options available to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness and to improve the range of information available about these housing options These recommendations do not differentiate on the grounds of race.</p> <p>Homeless people are amongst the most vulnerable in terms of socio-economic status with very few people being in employment. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy identifies actions to try to address workless-ness and to assist homeless people into training, education or employment where possible.</p> <p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy identifies a series of objectives to respond to homelessness in the borough. These objectives do not differentiate on the grounds of gender. The delivery of the strategy will have a positive impact on both homeless men and women alike, and identifies that female-specific supported accommodation needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Services available to homeless people can be accessed irrespective of marriage and civil partnership status. Single people and childless couples have separate provision from adults with children.</p> <p>The proposals contained within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy are not anticipated to disproportionately</p>				
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	<p>impact on people's religion/beliefs. Homeless accommodation services will continue to be required to recognise the needs of different faith-based observances and practices, and identify support needed for service users to access religious and faith-based groups and services through the support planning process.</p> <p>The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy does not differentiate on grounds of pregnancy/maternity. The Council commissions specific accommodation services aimed at homeless families and teenage parents, this group may include pregnant women.</p>				
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**Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Oversight of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 and its associated delivery plan will be provided by Wirral Homeless Forum, a multi-agency group comprising representatives from agencies that work with homeless people.

There will be the requirement for an annual update to be provided which also forms part of reports to relevant future committees.

**Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

The proposals set out in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy seek to alleviate all forms of homelessness across the borough, irrespective of gender, race, sexual orientation, beliefs etc

**Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?**

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 was informed by a robust review of homelessness in the borough.

**Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Public consultation for the review of homelessness and the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was undertaken between August 2019 and January 2020. Where appropriate, the Strategy was amended to reflect the feedback received as part of this consultative process.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

## **Section 7:      How will consultation take place and by when?**

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing.

## **Section 8:      Have you remembered to:**

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)**
- c) **Send this EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**