

# Community Impact Assessment

| Part 1 – Details  |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| What Policy/ Procedure/ Strategy/Project/Service is being assessed?                                 | Housing Assistance Policy and Council Adaptations Policy   |                          |
| Date Conducted  | 08/01/2024   |                          |
| Name of Lead Officer and Service Area   | Lucy Mitchell  |                          |
| Commissioning Team (if applicable)  | n/a  |                          |
| Director Responsible for project/service area   | Rob Barnes   |                          |
| Who are the main stakeholders   | Disabled and vulnerable residents of Tamworth<br>Relatives of said residents<br>Staffordshire County Council |                          |
| Describe what consultation has been undertaken. Who was involved and what was the outcome           | n/a  |                          |
| Outline the wider research that has taken place (E.G. commissioners, partners, other providers etc) | n/a  |                          |
| What are you assessing? Indicate with an 'x' which applies  | A decision to review or change a service   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | A Strategy/Policy/Procedure  | X                        |
|   | A function, service or project   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| What kind of assessment is it? Indicate with an 'x' which applies                                   | New  | X                        |
|   | Existing   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | Being reviewed   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | Being reviewed as a result of budget constraints / End of Contract   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Part 2 – Summary of Assessment

Give a summary of your proposal and set out the aims/ objectives/ purposes/ and outcomes of the area you are impact assessing.

Having a published Housing Assistance Policy is a statutory requirement.

The Policy sets out how the Council will make best use of its limited funding received from Government for the provision of adaptations through the Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) scheme and how the Council can use its discretionary powers under the regulatory Reform Order 2002 to enable best use of this funding to assist and support eligible residents.

This Policy states the Terms and Conditions applied to the mandatory and discretionary assistance available through the Council and the eligibility criteria to be applied, giving clarity and transparency to those seeking to apply for assistance.

The Policy also identifies the level of support the Council can provide should residents want to accept this support, but also how to complete the application themselves should they want an alternative provision.

Who will be affected and how?

The Policy provides a clear structure for how support under the DFG and associated monies will be used. It sets out how people can apply and what help and support is available as well as enabling the Council to ensure relevant support is available with a clear and robust decision-making process.

Any resident of the Borough who has a permanent disability can apply for funding from the relevant scheme. This is set in legislation.

Are there any other functions, policies or services linked to this impact assessment?

Yes

No



If you answered 'Yes', please indicate what they are?

The Council's Adaptations Policy & Housing Assistance Policy are linked.

The Council's adaptations policy is currently being written and will be subject to a separate CIA.

### Part 3 – Impact on the Community

Thinking about each of the Areas below, does or could the Policy function, or service have a direct impact on them?

| Impact Area                                  | Yes                                 | No                                  | Reason (provide brief explanation )   |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Age  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Most applications for assistance are from older people (aged 65+) given the nature of conditions and deterioration in health that ageing often brings.                                    |
| Disability                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | The policy applies to all residents with a permanent disability who require assistance in adapting their home. Applicants must have a permanent disability to be eligible for assistance. |
| Gender Reassignment                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Pregnancy & Maternity                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Race   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Religion or belief                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Sexual orientation                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Sex  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Gypsy/Travelling Community                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Those with caring/dependent responsibilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Carers of those with a permanent disability may support residents to apply for adaptations to make their home more suitable.  |
| Those having an offending past               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Children                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Children with a permanent disability are eligible for assistance under these policies.  |
| Vulnerable Adults                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Many residents with permanent disabilities are classed as vulnerable and the policies aim to support them to remain living independently.   |
| Families                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Children with a permanent disability are eligible for assistance under these policies. Its ambition is to support families with making their homes safer and more suitable for them.      |
| Those who are homeless                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Those on low income                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Disabled applicants in receipt of means tested benefits are eligible to apply for the grant. Others will be means tested to see if eligible as per the legislation.                       |
| Those with drug or alcohol problems          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |

|   |   |                          |   |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| Those with mental health issues   | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | A person with a permanent mental health condition is eligible to apply for assistance if their home requires adaptations.   |
| Those with physical health issues   | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | A person with a permanent physical health condition is eligible to apply for assistance if their home requires adaptations.   |
| Social inclusion<br>Please include refugees and asylum seekers,   | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | A person must have recourse to public funds in order to be eligible for assistance under the DFG legislation. Therefore some refugees and asylum seekers may not be eligible for assistance due to the governing legislation. |
| Social inclusion: Armed Forces<br>The Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect and any impact should be considered | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | Applications will be received from Members of the Armed Forces. There is no legal requirement in place to treat these applications any differently to other applications received.  |
| Health and Wellbeing  | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policies aim to promote health and wellbeing through improving the home environment of disabled people.   |
| Climate Change  | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy has no direct impact on climate change but through the delivery mechanism of its delivery the Council will be looking to use carbon neutral materials and encourage energy efficiency.                             |

#### **Part 4 – Risk Assessment**

**From evidence given from previous question, please detail what measures or changes will be put in place to mitigate adverse implications. this includes climate change considerations**

**This is the section in which to please outline any actions to mitigate negative or enhance positive impacts in terms of economic, environmental or wider societal considerations, and actions to review and monitor the overall impact of the change accordingly.**

| Impact Area | Details of the Impact   | Action to reduce risk |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| Children    | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be | None required         |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|                                   | completed.   |  |
| Vulnerable Adults                 | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be completed. | None required  |
| Families                          | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be completed. | None required  |
| Those with mental health issues   | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be completed. | None required  |
| Those with physical health issues | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be completed. | None required  |
| Social Inclusion: Asylum          | Assistance limited by statute  | Statute determines the assistance available, to note and record back to Government any cases where assistance has not been able to be provided.  |
| Health & Wellbeing                | Improved assistance and clear guidance regarding application routes to enable adaptations to be completed. | None required  |
| Climate Change                    | The implementation of the policies should enable improve energy efficiency adaptations to be installed     | Risk is minimal as the ambition is to improve energy efficiency. This will be monitored through regular specification reviews with other colleagues from housing and associated teams. |

**Part 5 - Action Plan and Review**

Detail in the plan below, actions that you have identified in your Community Impact Assessment, which will eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations.

If you are unable to eliminate or reduce negative impact on any of the impact areas, you should explain why

| Impact (positive or negative) identified   | Action   | Person(s) responsible | Target date   | Required outcome   |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|
|  | Outcomes and Actions entered onto Pentana  |                       |               |  |
| Improved availability of assistance and clear criteria and guidelines for applications | To monitor the number of applications and completions of the new forms of assistance and their impact on the recipients. | Lucy Mitchell         | Annual review | Increased number of adaptations completed and faster end to end times for residents. |
|  |  |                       |               |  |
|  |  |                       |               |  |

Date of Review (If applicable) .....

Guidance and form updated July 2023 following CMT approval.