

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This should be carried out during the development stage of a new project, strategy, policy or service or when you are reviewing an existing project, strategy, policy or service.

By understanding and meeting people’s differing needs we can provide more effective services.

Name and brief description of project, strategy, policy or service being assessed

Private Sector Housing Grant Assistance Policy

To provide financial grant assistance for the maintenance or adaptation of properties where the occupier meets certain qualifying criteria.

Information used to analyse the impact on people affected by the project, strategy, policy or service

State who will be affected, the relevant information you are using to assess how it will affect them, note any relevant consultation, surveys, etc.

Who will be affected by the policy?

Residents of the district with a disability, landlords, and those with limited income and disrepair to their property.

Information used to assess how the policy will affect stakeholders:

Consultation with Braintree Access Group
Consultation with Essex County Council Social Services Occupational Therapy practitioners
Professional knowledge of grant system and applicants over the years.

Other information used:

Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
Equality Act 2010

Use the information above to assess the impact of your project, policy, strategy or service on people from the following protected groups: (these are defined by the Equality Act 2010)

Protected Group		Positive Impact/ Benefit	Negative Impact/ Disadvantage	Explanation – State how
Age	Children 0-16		√	The removal of the grant for houses in multiple occupation and changes to the landlord grants will limit funding to improve tenanted properties. Restrictions on grant funding to apply only for heating and hot water systems will also reduce assistance for the repair of properties by owner occupiers with limited means.
	Young People 17-25		√	
	Ages 26-59		√	
	Older People 60+		√	
Disability Include disabled people and/or carers	Blind/Partially Sighted	√		Introduction of a relocation grant for those who cannot have works undertaken for disabled facility grant at their property or where moving is a more appropriate and acceptable outcome. Greater clarification is provided as to what works may or may not be covered by grant funding.
	Deaf/Hearing Impaired	√		
	Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties	√		
	Learning Difficulties	√		
	Mental Health Difficulties	√		
Gender	Men			
	Women			
	Transgender			
	Pregnancy & Maternity impact			
	Marriage & Civil Partnership			
Race	White			
	Asian			
	Black			
	Mixed Dual Heritage			
Religion/Belief	Buddhist			
	Christian			

	Hindu			
	Jewish			
	Muslim			
	Sikh			
	Other – please specify			
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian Gay men Heterosexual Bi-sexual			
Other (optional)	Use to define Impact on any groups specific to this Strategy, Policy or Function not listed above.			

If you identified any negative impacts above then either:

(a) Your proposal, policy or service is treating people from a protected group above less favourably because of their age, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation

or

(b) Your proposal, policy or service is intended to treat everyone equally but, unintentionally, people from a protected group above can be particularly disadvantaged or treated less favourably than other others.

PLEASE TICK WHICHEVER APPLIES

If you ticked (a) this is direct discrimination, which is illegal and you cannot proceed

If you ticked (b):

1. Can any negative impacts be minimized or removed? If so state what changes you will make.

Other sources of assistance will be signposted to reduce the impact on the user.

2. If you cannot minimize or remove negative impacts they must be justified and you must state your justification

Resource (staff and budget) is limited and has been further restricted. Grants for house repair, houses in multiple occupation and landlords are discretionary and are labour intensive to support. Disabled facility grants are mandatory and must be processed in a timely manner with the resource available. These are therefore prioritised over the discretionary grants.

If you identified any positive impacts is there anything further you can do to increase or extend the positive benefits? If so state what changes you will make

The proposed policy has been designed to be as fair, transparent and equitable as possible. It is not possible to determine how the policy can increase or extend these positive benefits at present. Further benefits could be identified by Cabinet which will be reflected in the policy and final equality impact assessment.

Completed By:

C. L. Batchelor

Approved By (Senior Manager)



16/05/2014

Service: Environmental Services

Date : 15/5/2014

Each service should retain the signed copy of the Assessment.

An electronic copy should be sent to angve@braintree.gov.uk for publication on the Council's website – this is a requirement to ensure that we meet our statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.