

## Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening Form



Screening determines whether the policy has any relevance for equality, ie is there any impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership\*
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

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1. Policy/service/function title	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029.
2. Lead officers (responsible for the policy/service/function)	Amma Antwi-Yeboah
3. Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 – 2029 is a 5-year review of the previous Homeless Strategy and incorporates a revision ensuring compliance with new Duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
4. What exactly is proposed? (Describe the policy/service/ function and the changes that are being planned?)	If policy / service or function changes are required as part of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeper Strategy, specific Equality Impact Assessment work will be carried out as that programme of work is developed.

<p>5. Why? (Give reasons why these changes are being introduced)</p>	<p>There is a legal requirement for the Councils to carry out a review of Homelessness in its Districts every five years and then formulate a strategy and associated action plan to detail how the Councils will continue to tackle homelessness issues over the next five years.</p>
<p>6. How will it be implemented? (Describe the decision- making process, timescales, process for implementation)</p>	<p><b>Summary of Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy development process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Scoping / ideas / SLT December 2022 – July 2023</li> <li>b. Political formal decision-making processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Overview and Scrutiny for process sign-off. October 2023</li> <li>• Cabinets to comment on 1<sup>st</sup> draft, seek approval for next stage (6-week consultation): October 2023</li> <li>• Full Councils: Request adoption of both strategies: Scheduled for March 2024</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Additional input from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial stakeholder consulting March 2023.</li> <li>• All Member briefings x 2; End October 2023 and November 2023.</li> <li>• 6-week open consultation period early Dec 2023 to January 2023 The consultation was conducted via a variety of communication channels and in formats to ensure groups are not knowingly excluded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>7.</b> Is there potential for differential impact (negative or positive) on any of the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a potential, but it is likely to be a positive impact.</p> <p>Any policies to be adopted to support the delivery and implementation of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy will complete an EQIA to ensure there are no negative impacts.</p> <p>The aim of the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is to improve outcomes for those facing a housing crisis. We are also required to follow legal procedures to ensure we accurately support and assess applications for assistance.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Is there the possibility of <b>discriminating unlawfully</b>, directly, or indirectly, against people from any protected characteristics?</p>	<p>No; the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is focussed on creating a positive impact on residents, housing availability, current housing stock conditions and housing related services provided by both Councils and other providers.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> Could there be an effect on <b>relations between certain groups</b>?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is intended to enhance relations between certain groups by extending and creating greater choice and options in the local housing markets and additional housing information services.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Does the policy explicitly involve, or <b>focus on, a particular equalities group</b>, i.e., because they have particular needs?</p>	<p>No, but should any policy / service or function changes be required as part of the implementation of the revised Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy outcomes, additional specific EQIA work will be carried out as that programme of work is developed to ensure compliance with the Public-Sector Equality Duties.</p>

**Proceed to full assessment:** **Equalities Lead sign-off:**

**Authors signature:** Amma Antwi-Yeboah, Corporate Manager – Housing Solutions

**Date of completion:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

\* Public sector duty does not apply to marriage and civil partnership.