

Appendix B - 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

1. Policy/service/function title	Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-25
2. Lead officers (responsible for the policy/service/function)	Amma Antwi-Yeboah
3. Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-25 is 1.1. The following policy outlines the Council's approach to the levying of empty homes premium and second homes premiums. Premiums were also introduced by Government from 1 April 2013 with a view to encouraging homeowners to occupy homes and not leave them vacant in the long term. The legislation introducing premiums is S11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 was inserted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
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 Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-25, 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>Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-25 development process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scoping / ideas / SLT 29th November 2023 b. Political formal decision-making processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Holders Briefing – 8th December 2023 • Joint Cabinet Briefing- 12th December 2023 • Cabinet: Request adoption of both strategies: Scheduled for January 2024

<p>7. 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 Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-will complete an EQIA to ensure there are no negative impacts.</p> <p>The aim of the Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024-is to outlines the Council’s approach to the levying of empty homes premium and second homes premiums. Premiums were also introduced by Government from 1 April 2013 with a view to encouraging homeowners to occupy homes and not leave them vacant in the long term.</p>
<p>8. Is there the possibility of discriminating unlawfully, directly, or indirectly, against people from any protected characteristics?</p>	<p>No; Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024- is focused on creating a positive impact on residents, housing availability, current housing stock conditions and housing related services in the housing market.</p>
<p>9. Could there be an effect on relations between certain groups?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024- is intended to enhance relations between certain groups by extending and creating greater choice and options in the local housing markets, improving the quality and affordability of housing.</p>
<p>10. Does the policy explicitly involve, or focus on, a particular equalities group, 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 Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy 2024 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: 15 th December 2023	

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