

Outcomes: BCC will publicise the outcome of successful sanctions and prosecutions, as a deterrent to would be fraudsters.

Benefits: The protection of public funds via this Policy forms an integral part of the Council's overall strategy to prevent, detect and deter fraud; promoting high standards of governance and accountability. It aims to benefit the tax payers of Birmingham and the overall governance of the community.

2. Explain how the main aims of the policy, strategy, function or service will demonstrate due regard to the aims of the General Duty?

- 1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation?
- 2. Advance equality of opportunity?
- 3. Foster good relations?
- 4. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
- 5. Encourage participation of disabled people?
- 6. Consider more favourable treatment of disabled people?

The Social Housing Fraud Prosecution and Sanction Policy is the agreed framework for Council officers involved in the investigation, sanction and prosecution of Social Housing fraud, and is in accordance with the provisions of the Social Housing Fraud Act 2012.

Social housing investigations are governed by stringent

3. What does your current data tell you about who your policy, strategy, function or service may affect:

Service users	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employees	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wider community	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please provide an explanation for your 'Yes' or 'No' answer

We have very little data available in relation to this new Policy, and are currently unable to identify how the Policy will impact on the above groups.

We have identified the following action - 'To collect management information from the Counter Fraud System (CFT) as it develops'. We will monitor our findings and review this EA in twelve months' time, when we will consider whether a full EA is required.

During 2012/13 76 properties were recovered which in turn were made available for re-letting to families on the housing waiting list.

4. Are there any aspects of the policy, strategy, function or service, including how it is delivered, or accessed, that could contribute to inequality? (including direct or indirect discrimination to service users or employees)

Yes No

Please provide an explanation for your 'Yes' or 'No' answer

We have no evidence that the Policy could be more detrimental to certain groups.

Birmingham is made up of a diverse community and as such the investigation function has put measures in place to help to promote equality of opportunity. Those investigated for social housing fraud have access to services providing fair treatment to individuals and groups. These include official interpreter services, large print documents on request, a hearing loop facility in meeting and interview rooms, a type talk phone facility, use of Big Word telephone interpreting service, print in other languages on request, establishing the needs of customers who are receiving disability benefit or have confirmed health issues, making arrangements for

DECLARATION

A Full Equality Assessment not required, the Initial Screening has demonstrated that the Policy, Strategy, Function or Service is robust; there is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

Chairperson: Laeeq Beg

Summary statement:

Sign-off Date: 22/08/13

Completion of the initial screening indicates that the policy is unlikely to have the potential for discrimination or adverse impact upon the lives of people or service users.

We have identified one action and will monitor and review progress against this throughout the remainder of 2012/13.

Quality check: The screening document has been checked using the agreed audit arrangements in the Directorate:

Name: (Officer/Group carrying out the Quality Check)

Date undertaken:

Screening review statement:

Suresh Sharma, Equality & Community Engagement Officer

21st August 2013

"In my opinion this is fine and ready to be signed off".

Directorate: Corporate Resources

Contact number: 303 2102

Equality Assessment Task Group Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role on Task Group</u> (e.g. service user, manager or service specialist)	<u>Contact Number</u>
1. Laeeq Beg	Chairperson / Operations Manager - BCFT	303 1723
2. Cynthia Carran	Principal Business Auditor - CABS	303 2104
3. Paula Moloney	Service Specialist - Internal Audit	464 1422
4. Sue Payne	Service Specialist - BCFT	303 0193

FULL EQUALITY ASSESSMENT– STAGE 2

Step 1– Scoping the Equality Assessment

Building on the material included at the Initial Screening stage, you should begin the Equality Assessment by determining its scope. The Equality Assessment should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy, strategy, function or service in relation to all areas of our remit. The Equality Assessment should be proportionate to the significance and coverage of the policy, strategy, function or service.

1. What data, research and other evidence or information is available which will be relevant to this Equality Assessment? Please tick all that apply

Service Targets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Targets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Take-up	<input type="checkbox"/>
User Satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Press Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Census Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workforce Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Previous Equality Impact Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complaints & Comments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information from Trade Unions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide details on how you have used the available evidence/information you have selected as part of your Assessment?

2. Have you identified any gaps in relation to the above question? Yes No
If 'Yes' please detail including what additional research or data is required to fill these gaps? Have you considered commissioning new data or research?

If 'No' proceed to Step 2.

Step 3 – Assessing Impact and Strengthening the Policy

6. What will be done to improve access to, an d take-up of, or understanding of the policy, strategy, function or service?

NB: These are the measures you will take to mitigate against adverse impact.

Step 4 – Procurement and Partnerships

7. Is this project due to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

Yes

No

If 'yes', have you done any work to include equality considerations into the contract already? Specifically you should set out how you will make sure that any partner you work with complies with equality legislation (employment practice/service provision)

Step 5 – Making a Decision

8. Summarise your findings and give an overview of whether the policy, strategy, function or service will meet the authority's responsibilities in relation to equality and support the council's strategic outcomes?

Step 6 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

Before finalising your action plan you must identify how you will go about monitoring the policy/function or the proposals, following the assessment, and include any changes or proposals you are making.

9. What structures are in place to monitor and review the impact and effectiveness of the new policy, strategy, function or service?

Step 7 – Action Plan

Any actions identified as an outcome of go

Step 8 – Sign-Off

The final stage of the Equality Assessment process is to formally sign off the document as being a complete, rigorous and robust assessment

The policy, strategy or function has been fully assessed in relation to its potential effects on equality and all relevant concerns have been addressed.

Chairperson of Equality Assessment Task Group

Name: Laeeq Beg	Job Title: Operations Manager	Directorate: Corporate Resources	Sign-off Date: 22/08/13

Quality Check and Review by the Directorate Contact Officer:

Name:	Directorate Team:	Review Date:
Summary of strengths and area(s) for improvement:		

Service Director or Senior Officer (sign-off)

Name: Kay Reid	Job Title: Assistant Director, Audit & Risk Management	Date: 22/08/13
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