

Stage 3 Equality Impact Assessment - Sign Off

3.1	Title of Proposal:	Scottish Borders Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 2022
3.2	Service Area: Department:	<p>Housing Strategy and Services Place</p> <p>While Scottish Borders Council has statutory responsibility for the development of the strategy. Its implementation is dependent on partnership working with a whole range of external organisations. Key partners are housing associations (RSLs), housing developers, private and voluntary sector service providers including information and advice providers, care and Repair, housing support providers, estate agents, letting agents and private landlords.</p>
3.3	Description:	<p>The Housing (Scotland) 2001 Act makes it a statutory requirement for all Scottish local authorities to prepare and submit a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) to Scottish Ministers. The LHS sets the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand in the Scottish Borders and informs future investment in housing and related services across the Scottish Borders. The LHS is regularly reviewed and updated every five years.</p> <p>The LHS is Scottish Borders Council’s primary strategic document on housing. It sets out the vision for housing in the Scottish Borders that <i>‘Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs’</i> There are four priorities that will help to achieve this vision, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supply of housing meets the needs of our communities • More people live in good quality, energy efficient homes • Less people are affected by homelessness • More people are supported to live independently in their own homes <p>There are numerous strategies and plans that sit under the LHS that feed into the strategy, these include; Strategic Housing</p>

	Investment Plan (SHIP), Homelessness Delivery Plan, Temporary Accommodation Strategy, Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan.
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3.4	Impact Assessment				
	Equality Characteristic	Impact			Description, Mitigation & Recommendations
		No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
	Age		X		<p>The implementation of the Local Housing Strategy will impact on the whole population of the Scottish Borders in that housing services are used by the whole population.</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Housing Strategy will bring many positive aspects for all of the communities of the Scottish Borders; this is at the very heart of the strategy. The LHS is a high level strategic document, therefore, there are specific strategies that feed into the LHS that cover the four priorities, these include SHIP, Fuel Poverty Plan, Health and Homelessness Strategy, Older Peoples Housing Strategy and Housing Contribution Statement. Many service areas are already in place to support this strategy; (such as Housing Support, Adaptations, Energy Efficiency Advice, and affordable housing policy). Throughout the development of the LHS any gaps in evidence/ data will be identified and steps will be put in place to ensure these are monitored within the strategy.</p> <p>Consultation throughout the development of the strategy has helped us to identify the key priorities for housing.</p> <p>As the LHS is a high level document, partnership working is essential part of delivery the strategy. The LHS Partnership Group will have overall responsibility of the strategy and includes members from RSLs, various council departments, Scottish Government, Care and Repair, NHS Borders, CAB and Changeworks.</p>
	Disability		X		
	Gender		X		
	Race Groups		X		
	People with Religious or other Beliefs		X		
	Pregnancy & Maternity		X		
	Sexual Orientation		X		
Carers		X			
Poverty		X			
Employees		X			

3.5	Relevance to the Equality Duty in Summary:
	What impact will your proposal have on the following :

	Equality Duty	Reasoning:
	Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment.	The implementation of the LHS will have a positive impact on the whole population of the Scottish Borders as everyone needs a home. Some services are already set up to deal with the four main priorities in the strategy (such as Housing Support, Adaptations, Energy Efficiency Advice, and affordable housing policy)
	Promotion of equality of opportunity?	The implementation of the LHS will help to identify and promote equal opportunity.
	Foster good relations?	There has been a wide ranging consultation period during the development of the LHS and this will continue through partnership working through the LHS Partnership Group. This will include strengthening already established partnerships and developing new partnerships to support the delivery and implementation of the LHS so that 'Every person in the Scottish Borders lives in a home that meets their needs'

3.6	Recommendations & Mitigation		
	Characteristic	Mitigation/Recommendation	Approved Yes/No
	All	It is important to ensure that all services that come under the LHS are protected and consideration to all the protected characteristics and themes relevant to the strategy have been included. Any new police/ service/ work that comes out of the LHS will need to also be considerate of all the protected characteristics and themes of the LHS and will require EIA's to ensure this. The LHS will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and adjusted accordingly. Throughout the development of the LHS any gaps in evidence/ data will be identified and steps will be put in place to ensure these are monitored within the strategy.	Yes Yes

Signed Off (Sign off <u>must</u> be completed by Service Manager or Director)			
Name:	Cathie Fancy	Directorate:	Housing Strategy and Services, Place
Post:	Group Manager, Housing Strategy and Services	Date:	25 th April 2017
EIA Completed By			

Name	Nile Istephan	Service Area	Eildon Housing Association Ltd.
Post	Chief Executive	Date	27 April 2017
EIA Completed By			
Name	Donna Bogdanovic	Service Area.	Housing Strategy and Services, Place
Post	Senior Housing Strategy Officer	Date	1 st April 2017
EIA Completed By			
Name	Lindsey Renwick	Service Area.	Housing Strategy and Services, Place
Post	Housing Strategy Officer	Date	9 th March 2017