

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Planning, Housing and Health

Head of Service: Jeremy Mann

Lead Officer: Katy Nicholls

Date of Assessment: 05/08/2022

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Tanisha Rowsell and Katy Nicholls

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Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: Amenity Standards, Minimum Room Sizing and Management Standards Document

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: The report and associated documents follow a six week consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposed amendments to the Council's Amenity Standards, Minimum Room Sizing and Management Standards document. A report was previously presented at the Strategy and Resources committee on 9th May 2022. The main themes and responses from the consultation have been addressed, and comments have been provided to offer additional clarity on some of the key themes identified. Changes have also been made to the document to provide further clarity on various definitions etc. following the feedback.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: September 2022.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Revised 2022 Amenity Standards	2021 Amenity Standards	Revised Amenity Standards, Minimum Room Sizing and Management Standards Document	The document sets out the amenity standards, minimum room sizes and management standards for landlords, licence holders and managers operating licensable HMOs in North Devon. Changes have been made to the existing document following feedback and queries received from Licence holders.

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Age = Positive

The elderly and young are positively impacted due to the nature of the client group referenced in the HHSRS operating guidance.

Disability = Positive

The space standards in the document are based on national standards and provide space for wheelchair users to move around safely.

Gender reassignment = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Marriage or civil partnership = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group

Pregnancy and maternity = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Race = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Religion = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Sex = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Sexual Orientation = Neutral

Standards are a requirement and remain the same for everyone, so the action will have no effect on the equality group.

Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

There are no negative impacts identified.

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

A six week consultation period ran in respect of the proposed revisions, between 8th June 2022 and 20th July 2022. Correspondence with details of the consultation was sent to all estate agents and landlords with licensed HMOs in North Devon, as per our register. A press release was also issued.

Funding Considerations:

Any financial costs which are incurred through the implementation of the Amenity Standards will be met by individual licence holders.

Date approved by Head of Service: 09/08/2022

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

April 2023

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

Following the implementation of the changes proposed in the document, a monitoring exercise will be carried out by April 2023.

Date approved by Head of Service: 09/08/2022

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 11/08/2022