

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Service Area: Environmental Health & Housing Service
Head of Service: Jeremy W Mann
Lead Officers(s): Jeremy W Mann and Wendy Slate
Date of Assessment: 17th February, 2021
Person responsible for completing the assessment: Jeremy W Mann
E-mail address: Jeremy.mann@northdevon.gov.uk

Name of policy/function/projects/service area to be assessed:

Measures to increase home energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.

Brief description of proposal to be assessed:

Home improvement grants/loans.
Domestic energy advisory service.
Enforcement of improvements in private rented accommodation.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:

April/May 2021.

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Marketing		Targeted promotion of the ECO3 scheme.	
ECO (Flex).	The latest NDC Statement of Intent was approved in 2018.	Revised Statement of Intent.	This document sets out the criteria that NDC intends to use to identify households who will qualify under flexible eligibility for ECO assistance.
Regulatory Reform Order.		Widen the availability of Better Care Funding to promote home energy efficiency.	Better Care Funding is passported to NDC from DCC. The proposal will not limit the availability of grants for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants.

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Domestic energy advice service.		Provision of new energy advisory service to residents who are at most risk of fuel poverty.	
Enforcement of housing standards in the private rented sector.		Develop a team who are empowered to use all the regulatory provisions, which are available to improve energy efficiency.	HHSRS, MEES, EPC, HMO licensing.

Impact:

Age	Positive/Negative/Negligible	Observations
Young people.	Positive	Protecting young people from the potential impacts of climate and fuel poverty.
Older people.	Positive.	Older people are particularly susceptible to negative health and wellbeing issues linked to cold indoor temperatures.
Disability	Positive/Negative/Negligible	Observations
Physically disabled applicants.	Positive.	People who spend a larger part of their time at home due to restricted mobility or chronic conditions, will be more impacted by poor housing conditions.
Gender	Positive/Negative/Negligible	Observations
Males/ Females.	Negligible.	The proposals apply equally irrespective of gender.
Marriage	Positive/Negative/Negligible	Observations
Marriage or civil partnerships.	Negligible.	The proposals apply equally, irrespective of the marital status or civil partnership status of any applicant.
Race	Positive/Negative/Negligible	Observations
Ethnic	Negligible.	The assistance is aimed at everyone

minority people.

regardless of ethnic origin.

Pregnancy/ Maternity	Positive/Negative/ Negligible	Observations
Pregnancy.	Positive.	Improved housing standards will particularly benefit people who spend a larger part of their time at home, e.g. pregnant mothers and those caring for babies and young children.
Religion	Positive/Negative/ Negligible	Observations
Different religious groups.	Negligible.	The approaches are designed to assist everyone regardless of religion, belief or non-belief.
Sexual orientation	Positive/Negative/ Negligible	Observations
People with different sexualities.	Negligible.	The proposals are aimed at helping everyone.

Consideration of Alternatives:

The interventions proposed, aim to assist those people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of fuel poverty and target areas which have the greatest fuel poverty gaps. The intended action provides, therefore, highly targeted and more universally available resources.

Consultation:

The proposals were shared with the Council's Climate Action Team and One Northern Devon partners.

Funding Considerations: ECO, Better Care Fund.

Date approved by Head of Service: 17.02.21

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessment 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.
Monitoring Arrangements:

Quarterly ongoing, highlight and exception reports to Strategy & Resources Committee, as required.

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

M3 Assure system to manage all cases and provide/generate performance reports.

Date approved by Head of Service: 17.2.21

Corporate and Community Services Uses Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 1/4/2021

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Report To: Strategy and Resources Committee
Report Date: 12th April 2021
Topic: Home Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty
Report by: J W Mann - Head of Environmental Health and Housing Services
and W Slate – Service Lead (Home Improvement and Adaptions
and Energy Efficiency).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper provides the Committee with a number of recommendations to: support an increase in energy efficiency; reduce fuel poverty; and increase the take up of renewable energy technologies, by supporting households with targeted interventions and cross sector funding.
- 1.2 The interventions have also been designed to support the sustainment of new tenancies and help with the Council's homelessness prevention work.
- 1.3 Domestic energy use accounts for approximately one-third of all the CO₂ emissions in the district. Adoption of these recommendations will make North Devon Council more pro-active in reaching the net zero carbon district target of 2050.
- 1.4 The proposals set out in the paper are in accordance with the Gov's new fuel poverty strategy, which was published in February 2021. The paper is called, "*Sustainable Warmth – Protecting Vulnerable Households in England*", and is available from the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:
 - 2.1.1 Note the cross sector framework to address fuel poverty set out in Appendix A.
 - 2.1.2 Approve the 5 strand approach to improving home energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty, detailed in paragraph 4.5, to include the request for waiver to commission 361 Energy.