

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – August 2005

Service Area - Arts Development, Legal services, Environmental Health services, Human Resources. etc.

Housing and Spatial Planning

Detailed activity – Development of the Pound Arts Centre, marketing industrial starter units, food hygiene courses, recruitment. etc.

Housing Market Assessment

Lead Officer – A.N.Other

Janet O'Brien, Housing Team Leader and Lachlan Robertson, Spatial Plans TL

Provide a broad description of the detailed activity and explain what the main aims of the activity are

1 What are the aims of the activity?

To fund a Housing Market Assessment across the sub-regional area including N.Wilts, Kennet and Swindon in partnership with those districts and the South West Regional Housing Body as part of a pilot programme

2 Which sections of the community will this activity have an impact on?
eg. general population, young people, older people, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups:

The aim of a housing market assessment is to analyse the housing market at a sub-regional level across district council boundaries. It is particularly focused on identifying trends in supply and demand and understanding demographic and economic influences on housing supply and demand. By carrying out this assessment the Council will be able to better plan to meet future housing needs in the district for all residents.

3 How and where will information be disseminated about:

a) The need for the activity? eg Community Strategy, Improving North Wiltshire, People's voice

The requirement to carry out a Housing Market Assessment is from central and regional government. It is anticipated that the assessment will be carried out using secondary data e.g. census results, labour force surveys, existing district wide housing needs assessments. It is intended that local housebuilders and developers as well as Housing Associations and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in a group to put together the brief together with the Government Office for the South West.

b) Collecting views of particular groups and/or the public? eg People's voice, groups representing ethnic minority groups, organisations such as Age Concern Wiltshire, budget consultation

This assessment is not likely to involve the collection of primary data. However, the results of the assessment will be published and made available to all.

c) Details of the activity? (If already existing or if being amended)

Carrying out a Housing Market Assessment is a new requirement of Government. It is aimed at ensuring local housing authorities take a holistic approach to housing planning and affordable housing delivery by ensuring areas of joint working with neighbours are identified and that plans respond to local markets.

4 Has any research or consultation been carried out into the need for the activity AND the ability of various community groups to access it?

No. This is a new requirement responding to regional and government policy pressures.

5 Has any evidence of access or compliance difficulties emerged as a result of previous monitoring?

No

6 Does the activity have the potential to lead to:

a) direct or indirect discrimination

Yes

No

How?

b) an adverse affect or other negative impact upon any community group?

Yes

No

How?

It is intended that this assessment will provide a better understanding of the influences on demand and supply of housing in the local area. This should enable the housing and planning authorities to make more informed plans for housing in the future.

c) a disproportionately positive impact on one community group over another?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	How?
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

7 If there is likely to be direct or indirect discrimination, or a disproportionately positive impact on any particular group, can this be justified? Please state how (eg statutory, results from monitoring, other evidence etc)

a

8 If (in 7) it cannot be justified, please state what measures, and/or reasonable adjustments (eg the DDA), will be put into place to address the in-equality

9 Is there an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and good community relations through the activity?

It is likely that the completion of a Housing Market Assessment will provide an additional layer of information to inform planning and housing policies, plans and strategies. This in turn will ensure the provision of those services is more responsive to local markets and demands.

10 Will there be a requirement for equality/diversity training to equip staff to deliver the activity?

No

11 Does the information available about this activity need to be revised?
(eg literature, website, internal documents, etc)

If the Council agrees to carry out a Housing Market Assessment, it will be necessary to update existing information sources e.g. the website to ensure awareness of its content is raised.

12 Please explain what forms of consultation you will be using or have used to inform the answers you have given above?

Neighbouring local authorities have been involved in a partnership regarding this proposed assessment. It is intended that a wider group of stakeholders will be involved in putting together the brief e.g. housebuilders, landowners.

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