



East Staffordshire Borough Council Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA)

This EHIA documents how you have taken into account health impacts and the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in the decision making process for this function, policy or service.

1	Title of function, policy or service to be assessed: Enforced Sale of Empty Homes
2	Date: 1 February 2021
3	Name of EHIA author: Brett Atkinson
4	EHIA team: Mike Petter
5	Head of Service: Sal Khan
6	Is the policy, function or service existing, new or being reviewed? New.
7	State the aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or service and provide a summary of the service provided: To utilise the enforced sale procedure to change the ownership of problematic empty homes that are proving intractable. Cabinet authorisation will be sought before this action is taken against a specific set of empty homes.
8	Are there any other functions, policies or services which might be linked with this one for the purpose of this EHIA? Empty Homes Service provided by Grafton UK. The land charges this actions relies on are created by a three departments of the Council, that is: Planning, Environmental Health and Building Control.
9	Who is it intended to affect or benefit (the target population)? Borough residents and visitors within a regional catchment.

10 Equality impacts

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Within this table, state whether the policy, function or service will have a positive or negative impact across the following protected characteristics and provide any comments.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Comments
Age			Impact neutral.
Disability			Impact neutral.
Sex / gender reassignment / pregnancy or maternity			Impact neutral.
Race			Impact neutral.
Religion or belief			Impact neutral.
Sexual orientation			Impact neutral.
Other			

11 What evidence do you have for the statements made in Question 10?

This function correlates unsuccessful attempts to encourage the owners of empty homes to bring their homes into use, with land charges owed to the Council. Identification of empty homes for enforcement on this basis will not specifically favour or discriminate against any particular group.

12	<p>Consultation: Describe what consultation has been undertaken on this function, policy or service, who was involved and the outcomes.</p> <p>There has been internal consultation, as well as with Grafton UK and Bevan Brittan LLP who specialise in this area.</p>															
13	<p>Briefly explain how the policy, function or service contributes to community cohesion by answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will it provide equality of access to services, information and employment? • Does it or could it promote good relationships within and between communities? • How will it help to prevent social exclusion? • Will it help to reintegrate those who have become excluded? • Will this assist with communities feeling that they are connected to decision making that affects them? • How will it provide good quality, inclusive services? 															
14	<p>Health impacts – screening question Will the subject of this EHIA:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;"></th> <th style="width: 30%;">No (Provide a brief explanation of your response.)</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? Provide a brief explanation of your response.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</td> <td></td> <td>Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?</td> <td></td> <td>Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</td> <td>No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?</td> <td>No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please refer to the EHIA guidance document. If you answer yes to any of these questions a health impact assessment is required, please complete section 16.</p>		No (Provide a brief explanation of your response.)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? Provide a brief explanation of your response.)	Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.	Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?		Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.	Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?	No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.		Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?	No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.	
	No (Provide a brief explanation of your response.)	Yes (Is this impact positive or negative? Provide a brief explanation of your response.)														
Have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?		Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.														
Have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?		Yes, regenerating a local area and removing unsightly empty homes will have a positive impact.														
Have an effect on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?	No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.															
Affect access to, and the quality of, health, mental health or wellbeing services?	No, the home will be empty whilst this function is deployed.															

15

Head of Service signature: I am satisfied with the results of this EHIA.

16. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT¹

Please complete this, if you have answered yes to any of the health impact screening questions.

A. Describe the health impact(s). Please refer to the screening questions in Q14 above.	B. Answering 'YES' to the above questions (Q14) indicates an important health impact. Be explicit and include the evidence that has been considered.	C. Are the health impacts significant?
--	---	---

Identify the health impact(s)	Will the health impacts affect the whole population? Will they affect particular groups of people differently?	Will the health impacts be difficult to remedy or have an irreversible effect? Are they likely to cause public concern?	Will the health impacts be medium or long-term? Are they likely to create cumulative effects?	Does this health impact have a significant positive or negative effect (based on your responses to Section B)?
Contribute to the regeneration of local areas, improving mental health and environmental living conditions.	The whole population.	No	No	Significant positive.

¹ Adapted from 'Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, a guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process.' Department of Health, July 2010 p.13

17. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Please describe the actions, if any, you will take to mitigate against negative health or equality impacts identified in this assessment, or to maximise the benefits of the policy or service.
If significant action is required, it should be included in Service Plans.

Is it a Health or Equality action?	Issue / impact identified	Recommendation / action required	Lead officer and timescale	Resource allocation