

Equality Impact Assessment: The Local Housing Authority Fund (LHAF)

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Extraordinary Council Meeting 8 th August 2023	Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2	That Council approve: 1. Acceptance of the full allocation of £670,000 in DLUCH grant funding;	See below

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the purchase of (five) properties to be held in the Housing Revenue Account; 3. that the Council's Capital contribution is funded through £807,500 of available S106 funds. 4. identification and purchase of suitable properties to let to eligible households using introductory tenancies for the first year and fixed term tenancies for up to five years. 5. that the rents be set at affordable rates in accordance with the recommended rental funding model. 6. that the MOU (Appendix 1) be signed and returned to DLUHC by the 14th August 2023 confirming the Council's participation in the programme. 7. that the Director of City Development and Housing and the relevant Portfolio Holder are given delegated authority to proceed with the 	

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
		acquisitions and to amend the number of properties purchased in line with the agreement above and including where additional government grant may become available (provided that no further capital contribution is required from Exeter City Council).	

Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact – some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Positive	medium	The LHAF is targeted funding to provide homes for refugees who have come to England from areas of conflict. The properties being purchased are to be ring-fenced for the use of households from

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
			Afghanistan as per Grant restrictions. For future let's if there are no further eligible cohorts, then the properties can be used to meet the housing needs of Exeter citizens. One of the properties will be used as temporary accommodation to meet the needs of homeless households in Exeter.
Disability: as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	Positive	Low	As above
Sex/Gender	Positive	Low	As above
Gender reassignment	Positive	Low	As above
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).	Positive	Low	As above
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Positive	Low	As above
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Positive	Low	As above
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Positive	Low	As above
Marriage and civil partnership status	-	-	(No negative impacts identified)

Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion

Officer: Chris Stocks

Date: 18th July 2023