

Equality Impact Assessment: Temporary Accommodation Allocations Policy

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:
03/02/2026	Temporary Accommodation Allocations Policy	To publish Temporary Accommodation Allocations Policy	Race & ethnicity Disability Sex Gender reassignment Religious belief Sexual Orientation Age Pregnancy & maternity Marriage & civil partnership

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
<p>Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reports that 1.7% of the local population identified as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (9.3% for England and Wales), 0.3% identified as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (4.0% for England and Wales), 1.4% of the local population identified as mixed or multiple ethnic groups (2.9% for England and Wales) and 0.5 % identified as another ethnic group (2.1% for England and Wales), 96% of the local population identified as White (81.7% for England and Wales).</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the Authorities temporary accommodation provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative low impact for customers with specific cultural needs in accommodation sharing communal facilities with other ethnic groups, for example sharing food preparation surfaces in communal kitchens where halal or kosha foods are being prepared.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In mitigation of this impact the authority has adequate provision to place individuals / families in these groups in self-contained accommodation. • All self-contained units of the authority's temporary accommodation provision are accessible to all ethnic groups. • Gypsies and Travellers may experience additional barriers or cultural needs in relation to shared accommodation or placement outside their established community. The Council will mitigate this through access to self-contained units where possible. • Where English is not a customer's first language documents can be translated into the relevant language
<p>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.</p>	<p>Negative</p> <p>Negative</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p>	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reports that 7.3% of the local population identified as disabled under the Equality Act with day-to-day activities limited a lot, 11.6% of the local population identified as disabled under the Equality Act with day-to-day activities limited a little. 81.1% reported as not disabled under the Equality Act.</p> <p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile report that 17.8% of the population of England and Wales identified as disabled under the Equality Act and 82.2% as not disabled under the Equality Act.</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the Authorities temporary accommodation provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High medium impact of placing customers with physical disabilities in the authority's temporary accommodation provision as there are few temporary accommodation units that are DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant and / or level access, ground floor. Consequently, if ECC were to have a spike in demand for adapted units it may not be able to meet it within our current temporary accommodation portfolio. Such spikes are unusual; any impact is mitigated by utilising the local commercial hotel provision to access the appropriate facilities. • Low negative impact of placing customers with some diagnosed and treated mental health conditions, for example depression and anxiety, in

	Negative	Medium	<p>the authority's temporary accommodation provision as such issues would not normally make a property unsuitable, as the problems would persist in any sort of accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High negative impact of accommodating customers with learning disabilities (where the authority has a lawful duty to place) in the authority's temporary accommodation provision when appropriate support and enabling interventions are not in place nor are access to specialist medical or care services are not available to the customer. Mitigation can be reached by close working with DCC to ensure appropriate support for customer.
	Negative	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low negative impact of risk to self and others that may result from the above are mitigated by utilising a limited number of bed spaces available in the authority's contractor managed accommodation where 24 - hour monitoring is in place and an out of hours service is available.
Sex	Negative	Low	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reports that 51% of the local population were female and 48.7% were male.</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the Authorities temporary accommodation provision. Of the 320 persons accommodated 46.88% were female, 52.19% were male, 0.31% preferred not to say and 0.63% did not respond.</p>
	Positive	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low negative impact relating to the absence of an exclusively targeted provision as all accommodation is accessible to all sexes • Low positive impact as six units of temporary accommodation are allocated by the authority for single male use only (not exclusive when

	Negative	Low	<p>demand is high) and six for single female use only (not exclusive when demand is high).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low negative impact when the authority does not have availability in its temporary accommodation provision to accommodate customers fleeing domestic abuse. Women experiencing domestic abuse are disproportionately represented among those requiring emergency accommodation. Self-contained units will be prioritised where available. Commercial hotels in the local area (or out of area), or refugee spaces can be utilised to accommodate customers.
Gender reassignment	Negative	Low	<p>Gender identity: 92.9 % said they had the same sex as registered at birth, 0.02% said they had a different identity from the sex they had registered at birth, but no specific identity given. 0.01% identified as a Trans woman, 0.1% as a Trans man, 0.1% as non-binary, 0.1% all other gender identities, 6.5% did not respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All self-contained units of the authority's temporary accommodation provision are accessible to all customers.
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).			<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reports that 44.6% of the local population said they had no religion or belief (37.2 % for England and Wales), 46.6% said they were Christian (46.2 % for England and Wales), 0.4% Buddhist (0.5% for England and Wales), 0.7% Muslim (6.5% for England and Wales), 0.2% Hindu (1.7% for England and Wales), 0.1% Jewish (0.5% for England and Wales), 0.6% Sikh (0.6% for England and Wales) and 6.7% failed to answer (6.0% for England and Wales).</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the authority's temporary accommodation provision. Of the 320 persons accommodated 1.88% said they were atheist, 3.44% Christian, 0.33% Islamic, 0.31% Spiritism, 8.75% no religion, 1.88% not known, 81.56% did not respond and 1.56% said other.</p>

	Negative	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative low impact for customers with specific cultural needs in accommodation sharing communal facilities with other ethnic groups, for example sharing food preparation surfaces in communal kitchens where halal or kosha foods are being prepared. • In mitigation of this impact the authority has adequate provision to place individuals / families in these groups in self-contained accommodation. • All self-contained units of the authority's temporary accommodation provision are accessible to all ethnic groups.
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Positive	Low	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reported that 5.3% of the local population identify as either gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, queer or other sexual orientation, 86.2% as either straight or heterosexual and 8.5% failed to answer.</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the authority's temporary accommodation provision. Of the 320 people accommodated 77.81% identified as heterosexual, 1.25% as bisexual, 1.88% as lesbian / gay, 1.25% as other, 16.56% preferred not to say and 1.25% did not respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive low impact as there is no evidence to support a specific impact and no targeted provision in the authority's temporary accommodation provision relating to sexual orientation. • All temporary accommodation / services are equally accessible regardless of sexual orientation.

<p>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).</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority reported that the majority of the local population, 17.7%, were aged between 35 and 49, 16.5% were aged between 50 and 64, 13.8% were aged between 25 and 34, 12.5% were aged between 20 and 24, 8.6% were aged between 65 and 74, 8.1% were aged between 16 and 19, 5.6% were aged between 10 and 15, 5.6% were aged between 75 and 84, 4.7% were aged between 5 and 9, 4.5% were under the age of 4, 2.5% were over the age of 85 and 4.1% were over the age of 60.</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the authority's temporary accommodation provision. Of the 320 persons accommodated 0.63% were aged between 16 and 17, 29.69% were aged between 18 and 25, 23.13% were aged between 26 and 35, 23.75% were aged between 36 and 45, 12.19% were aged between 46 and 55, 10.63% were aged 56 and over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low positive impact of placing customers in all age groups in the authority's temporary accommodation provision as suitable offers are typically available within the authorities' boundaries that meet the needs of individual groups in this area of interest. For example, customers with school age children or the elderly and frail are typically placed in accommodation as close to their schools, GP Surgeries and Hospitals as possible to reduce travel time and maximise affordability. • Low negative impact to customers with children placed in the authority's temporary accommodation provision where certain circumstances require them to move or exchange their allocated unit of accommodation within it to allow another customer with greater needs or vulnerabilities associated with age to occupy it.
<p>Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast-feeding mothers</p>			<p>There is no data available from the 2021 Census Profile.</p> <p>Data taken from Exeter City Councils client information system for the period April 24 to April 25 records that 320 people were accommodated in the</p>

	Negative	Low	<p>authority's temporary accommodation provision. Of the 320 persons accommodated, 150 were female. Of the 150 females, 2.50% said they were pregnant, 18.44% said they were not pregnant and 25.94% did not respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low negative impact relating to customers who are pregnant and / or breast feeding and are placed in the authority's temporary accommodation provision, customers in this group are typically prioritised for placements in self-contained units (when available) where there is a higher level of monitoring and light touch support available.
Marriage and civil partnership status	Neutral Impact	Low	<p>Data from the 2021 Census Profile for the Exeter authority report that 33.2% of the local population were either never married or in a civil partnership (37.9% for England and Wales), 47.5% were married or in a civil partnership (44.6% for England and Wales), 2.1% were separated but still married or in a civil partnership (2.2% for England and Wales), 10.1% were divorced or had a civil partnership dissolved (9.1% for England and Wales) and 7.1% were widowed or surviving a partner in a civil partnership, (6.1% for England and Wales).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage data on marriage and civil partnership status is not routinely collected by Exeter City Councils client information system. • Neutral low impact as all temporary accommodation / services are equally accessible regardless of status