



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Equality Impact Assessment Validation Decision Notice

EIA Reference Number	26/2010
Service, policy, or strategy	Housing Register Allocations Policy
Element(s) assessed	All
Names of Assessors	Kate Randall (Housing Manager), Kathy Clapson (Assistant Manager, Housing Needs), Donna Ind (Housing Services Officer), Anne Gray (Access Officer), Islam Jalaita (BME Community Development Officer), Sarah Blohm (Equalities Officer)

Consider:

	Yes	No
Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was the service promoting equality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could the service be improved in promoting equality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the customers' needs understood and met?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> understood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> met
Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the summary report clear and easy to understand?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The decision is to: **Validate** **Not validate**

The reason/s for the decision are: *please give details below*

- Validation given – information correct
- Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect
- Not validated - screening error
- Not validated – research/consultation error
- Not validated – improvement error

Signed
Karen Brumacombe

Designation
Corporate Director

Name
Karen Brumacombe

Date
11 August 2010

Summary Report

Name of service, policy, or strategy	Housing Register Allocations Policy
Element(s) being assessed	All
Date of assessment	
Name of assessors	Kate Randall (Housing Manager), Kathy Clapson (Assistant Manager, Housing Needs), Donna Ind (Housing Services Officer), Anne Gray (Access Officer), Islam Jalaita (BME Community Development Officer), Sarah Blohm (Equalities Officer)

The Assessment

There is a statutory requirement for the council to have a scheme of allocations in place for all Registered Social Landlords. The allocations scheme seeks to ensure that any discretion applied in housing application cases is fair and applied equally. The housing register is open to all and applicants are assessed against standard eligibility criteria. The purpose of the assessment was to ensure that all existing and potential housing applicants are treated equitably and that discretion is applied fairly.

Previous consultation carried out by the BME Community Development Officer identified accessing local housing as a priority concern for the BME population. A lack of knowledge regarding social housing and how to access it was identified, as was the issue of finding information in their own languages.

The scoping/screening exercise identified two key issues:

1. Information for applicants who do not have English as a first language.
2. The lack of provision for the Gypsy and Traveller community which has a negative impact on both the travelling and settled communities.

To address the negative impacts above, it was agreed that:

1. Better use would be made of the local equality forums, such as Basingstoke Multicultural Forum, to disseminate information about social housing and the translation service offered by the council.
2. The ongoing review of the Gypsy & Traveller service will include further consultation with both the travelling and settled communities to determine how to address local need.

The Housing Register Allocations Policy contains provisions for considering an applicant's housing need in relation to their age (over 55s in particular), health/disability, culture/ethnicity and rural local connections. This ensures that priority is given to those in the most need.

Summary Report

The policy is applied fairly and consistently and there were no negative impacts identified regarding gender, sexual orientation, faith/belief and age (other than provision for specific over 55s housing).

The group agreed that the two identified improvements mentioned above would address the negative impacts, and subsequently no full equality impact assessment is required.

Stage 5

STAGE 5 - Improvements

Name of service, policy, or strategy	Housing Register Allocations Policy				
Element(s) assessed	All				
Date to be submitted for validation	11 August 2010				
Target implementation start date					
Target completion date					
Action required to achieve improvement title & brief description	<p>The scoping/screening exercise identified two key issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information for applicants who do not have English as a first language. 2. The lack of provision for the Gypsy and Traveller community which has a negative impact on both the travelling and settled communities. <p>To address the negative impacts above, it was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better use would be made of the local equality forums, such as Basingstoke Multicultural Forum, to disseminate information about social housing and the translation service offered by the council. 2. The ongoing review of the Gypsy & Traveller service will include further consultation with both the travelling and settled communities to determine how to address local need. 				
Reference number or code					
Responsibility:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 631 328 763">Lead</td> <td data-bbox="268 763 328 2033">Kate Randall</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="167 631 228 763">Support</td> <td data-bbox="167 763 228 2033">Kathy Clapson</td> </tr> </table>	Lead	Kate Randall	Support	Kathy Clapson
Lead	Kate Randall				
Support	Kathy Clapson				

Equality Impact Assessment

FORM F

Stage 5

Resource implications	Staff time/translation service
Links <i>To business/service plan actions, policies, strategies or programmes</i>	Customer Access Policy

The prioritisation criteria used at Stage 2 may be useful to give an overall priority and to prioritise individual actions. In either case you may need to add additional criteria such as cost, timescale, ease of implementation, etc.