



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Appendix 2

Equality and Climate Change Impact Assessment

Cherwell District Council

Housing Standards Enforcement Policy

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Section 1: Summary details

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| Directorate and Service Area | Housing Services – Cherwell District Council Directorate: Adults and Housing Services |
| What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change). | Cherwell District Council – Housing Standards Enforcement Policy |
| Is this a new or existing function or policy? | New policy (replacing six current policies with refreshed content but also including new provisions). |
| Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment). | The Housing Standards Enforcement Policy is an updated and extended policy in relation to the regulation and enforcement of housing standards. Effective enforcement of applicable housing standards will generally have a positive impact on residents' health and wellbeing but is likely to deliver particular benefits for those who are likely to be most adversely affected by poor home conditions, including elderly and young residents and those who spend a greater proportion of their time at home. |
| Completed By | Tim Mills |
| Authorised By | Gillian Douglas (Assistant Director Housing and Social Care Commissioning) |
| Date of Assessment | 08/06/21 |

Section 2: Detail of proposal

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| <p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p> | <p>The Housing Standards Enforcement Policy sets out the powers the Council has at its disposal to regulate and improve housing in the district, its approach to enforcement, and how it intends to use the available powers. It will supersede and replace most, but not all, existing policies in relation to the enforcement of housing standards.</p> |
| <p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p> | <p>The policy has been produced following a review of six existing policies, which it will replace, but also covers three recent pieces of legislation which are not yet covered by policy and are included for the first time.</p> <p>The legislation underpinning the existing policies has remained substantially unchanged; as a consequence, although content has been reviewed and refreshed, much is reproduced in the new policy without significant change.</p> <p>Drawing several separate policies together is intended to simplify a growing number of related policies, to improve clarity and to ensure that information about the Council's approach to the enforcement of housing-standards is easier to find and use for both officers and the public. It will also assist future policy review.</p> |

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| <p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p> | <p>Since the new policy is principally concerned with refreshing and consolidating existing policies, no consultation has been undertaken.</p> |
| <p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p> | <p>The alternative approach of continuing with six current policies whilst also introducing new policies to address recent legislative provisions was rejected as inappropriate. Failing to refresh existing policies would run the risk of them being perceived as potentially out-of-date and would fail to take advantage of the opportunity to simplify the range of policies and their future administration.</p> |

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

| Protected Characteristic | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of Impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Age | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The enforcement of housing standards is, in many cases, a statutory duty predicated upon reducing hazards and potential risks to health. Older and younger occupants of unsatisfactory homes are often at increased risk of ill health. Enforcement will therefore benefit them in particular. | N/A | CDC Housing Standards Team | Performance is reported monthly through the Unity system |
| Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disabled residents often spend more time in their homes and are therefore potentially more at risk from unsatisfactory conditions. Enforcement will therefore deliver particular benefit for disabled residents. | N/A | CDC Housing Standards Team | Performance is reported monthly through the Unity system. |
| Gender Reassignment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gender reassignment has no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| Protected Characteristic | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of Impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Marriage & Civil Partnership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marital status should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Pregnancy & Maternity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pregnancy and maternity should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Race | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Race should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sex | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sex should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sexual Orientation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sexual orientation should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Religion or Belief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion and belief should have no bearing on housing enforcement. | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

| Additional community impacts | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Rural communities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The enforcement of applicable housing standards is not dependent upon location. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Armed Forces | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The enforcement of applicable housing standards is determined by the condition of accommodation. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Carers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The enforcement of applicable housing standards is determined by the condition of residents' accommodation. | N/A | N/A | N/A. |
| Areas of deprivation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The enforcement of applicable housing standards is determined by the condition of residents' accommodation rather than location. | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

| Additional Wider Impacts | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of Impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The availability of the new policy confirming approach and decision making will have a beneficial impact on staff delivering the service. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other Council Services | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The availability of the new policy confirming approach and decision making will have a beneficial impact on staff delivering the service. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Social Value ¹ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

OCC and CDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to:

| Climate change impacts | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Energy use in our buildings or highways | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Our fleet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Staff travel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Purchased services and products (including construction) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Maintained schools | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | NA | N/A | N/A |

We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

| Climate change impacts | No Impact | Positive | Negative | Description of impact | Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts | Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation) | Timescale and monitoring arrangements |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enforcement of appropriate standards will, in some cases, result in improvements in the energy efficiency of the existing housing in the district. | N/A | CDC Housing Standards Team | Performance is reported monthly through the Unity system. |

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| Review Date | Policy review after 3 years. |
| Person Responsible for Review | Housing Development and Standards Manager (Cherwell DC) |
| Authorised By | Assistant Director, Housing and Social Care Commissioning. (Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council). |