

Cherwell District Council
Equality and Climate Impact Assessment

Cherwell District Council Temporary Accommodation Policy

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Wellbeing and Housing – Housing Services
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Cherwell District Council Temporary Accommodation Policy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy to cover existing service function
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).	<p>The Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation for certain households who approach the Council for assistance and who are in housing crisis. The duties that the Council has are outlined within legislation, specifically the Housing Act 1996. The policy outlines the Council's approach, including how placements are made and managed.</p> <p>Any prioritisation of different treatment of households is outlined with legislation regarding eligibility for housing, priority need and associated legislation pertaining to housing and allocation of housing.</p>
Completed By	Richard Smith
Authorised By	Nicola Riley
Date of Assessment	May 2025

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<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 Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households following an assessment of their needs. This assessment, outlined within legislation, is conducted by the Council and takes account of whether someone is homeless, eligible for assistance and the nature of their household vulnerability. Households that are classed as having a 'Priority Need' due to their household vulnerabilities, are placed within temporary accommodation.</p> <p>There are different duties within the Housing Act 1996 under which temporary accommodation is provided to homeless households, these are outlined within the Policy document.</p> <p>The Council has a mixed temporary accommodation portfolio to manage demand. This comprises of partnerships with registered providers of social housing, private sector partners, Council owned accommodation and, where necessary, hotel placements.</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>Who is provided with temporary accommodation is outlined within the Housing Act 1996. The policy covers the management of these placements. As placements are being made currently, it is prudent to have a policy that outlines how the Council delivers this service.</p>
<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</p>	<p>There are around 100 households placed within temporary accommodation currently. The Council constantly has a number of households placed. The policy will therefore affect these individuals and those placed in the future. Around 5 new households are currently placed in temporary accommodation each week.</p>

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help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.	
Alternatives considered / rejected 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>The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.</p> <p>Not to bring forward a Temporary Accommodation Policy.</p> <p>There is no statutory need to have a Temporary Accommodation Policy, so this is an option that could be considered. It is however considered good practice for Council's to have a Temporary Accommodation Policy in the Council's conversations with its homelessness advisors from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and also is an approach that is and has been replicated by other Council's across the Country. This is therefore rejected.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

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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"/>	<p>Eligibility for housing, outlined within legislation, advises who should be assisted.</p> <p>Legislation advises that placements in hotels for households with children should be minimised and sets out a maximum time within legislation.</p>	The policy and housing strategy outlines that the Council is aiming to provide more units of self-contained accommodation and wishes to reduce/end hotel usage.	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Those with certain vulnerabilities are classed as priority need and are therefore provided with temporary accommodation when the approach the Council in housing crisis.	None	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Households that are pregnant are classed as priority need and are therefore provided with temporary accommodation when they approach the Council in housing crisis.	N/A	Housing Options Manager	Annual monitoring
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	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"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation advises that members of the armed forces should be prioritised for housing additionally, and certain criteria routinely applied to other households will not apply to armed forces households.	None	Housing Options Manager	Annual Monitoring
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		None	N/A	N/A
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		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
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Providers of social housing are part of the temporary accommodation offer that the Council has, but this impact is neither positive or negative.	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	N/A	N/A	N/A

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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.

Review Date	Annual
Person Responsible for Review	Head of Housing
Authorised By	AD Wellbeing and Housing