

Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

2015-2018 Budget Summary Report

What budget option does this ERIA information relate to?

SfC 22 – Hostel Provision Service Redesign

There are currently 2,785 bed spaces, flats and homes in temporary accommodation including private sector leasing. Closure of one hostel will have minimal impact on the provision of accommodation for the client group however closure of more than one hostel has the potential to increase rough sleeping and pressure on other services such as social work, criminal justice and health.

By mutual agreement the Salvation Army's Ashbrook hostel is to close on 31 December 2014. The closure of Ashbrook will mean the loss of only 24 places which will have minimal impact. This means that the dangers of a significant increase in rough sleeping and risks to the rights of homeless people following closure of a number of hostels have been avoided.

This will result in a saving of £168,080 in 2015-16.

This leaves £6920 of this budget option still to be found.

It is likely that this remaining amount can be saved without the closure of any other hostels as the savings are to be achieved through rent restructuring and staffing changes.

The possibility of reinvestment would be dependent on reshaping of other services but within the context of significant savings being achieved and on the impact of welfare reform.

What are the main impacts of this option on rights?

The redesign of the service will focus on moving people into permanent accommodation and equipping clients with the skills to live independently.

Support includes assistance to:

- access health services (enhancing health)
- learn to manage a tenancy (enhancing physical security and individual, family and social life)
- emotional support (enhancing health)
- education (enhancing education and learning)
- employment (enhancing productive and valued activities and standard of living)

The support service provided will continue to enhance:

- life
- Identity, expression and self respect
- Participation influence and voice

What are the main impacts of this option on equality?

The closure of Ashbrook will mean the loss of 24 places. However, in the recent period the occupancy rate had declined to 60% which is believed to be due to the unpopularity of its shared accommodation. Few women chose to or were able to be housed there and during the last nine months only two

women became residents. In practice its closure will not reduce the overall number of places for women.

Recent reports indicated that 20% of Ashbrook had a physical disability or ill health and just over half had mental health problems. All residents have now been successfully moved to other forms of temporary accommodation. The potential risk to the health and wellbeing of these residents through loss of accommodation following closure has therefore been mitigated.

Alternative accommodation for clients from the protected characteristics is still available.

The recommendations in this report and actions taken evidence a continual improvement in the Council's ability to evidence its due regard to all three components of the equality duty.

What are the main recommendations to address either the positive or negative impacts?

- Focus redesign on rent restructuring and staff changes to ensure minimal impact
- Robust client engagement and consultation will inform future developments to ensure that the views of those with protected characteristics influence and inform future decision making processes
- Client feedback processes will be analysed for disproportionate impact on people with protected characteristics

Sign Off (print name and position and contact details)

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Carbon Impact Assessment Template

BUDGET OPTION (number/title/details)				
LEAD OFFICER (name and contact details)				
To record your assessment put an X in the appropriate columns below.				
COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS	IMPACTS			NOTES
	↓	↑	↔	
WASTE to landfill			X	
BUILDINGS energy usage			X	
INFRASTRUCTURE energy usage			X	
TRANSPORT fuel consumption			X	

↓ = *anticipated decrease in emissions*

↑ = *anticipated increase in emissions*

↔ = *no change anticipated*