

Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

2015-2018 Budget Summary Report

What budget option does this ERIA information relate to?

SfC 23

The proposal focuses on achieving budget reduction through the procurement process rather than any reduction in bed space. Procurement will bring provision on to contract which will establish contract standards and monitoring systems. This will enhance the current service standards and allow for obligatory monitoring and provider penalties if they do not meet the required quality of service.

The specification standards being proposed through procurement are a direct result of customer focus group feedback. By formalising standards through a service specification enhances the rights of the people using the service.

In addition to this, a housing options and homeless prevention approach is being developed. The development of a housing options/homelessness prevention approach will allow for a more individual, customer-focused approach which will explore customers' housing and support needs which will be tailored to a person's circumstances. Alternative options to B&B accommodation will be explored which should enhance accommodation placements and outcomes.

What are the main impacts of this option on rights?

There is no infringement of rights. The proposals are intended to enhance the overall quality of the B&B service and assist customers to explore alternative, more positive options to B&B.

As a result there will be a general enhancement of all rights.

What are the main impacts of this option on equality?

By maintaining the current level of provision, and by enhancing the service specification, including level of service and improved housing options, clients from the protected characteristics will continue to receive a wide variety of services. In particular clients who have been subjected to behaviours based in identity based violence e.g. domestic abuse, honour based violence, human trafficking, hate crimes and sectarian behaviours will be supported to leave their abusers and live free from intimidation, victimisation, violence and abuse and the Council will be contributing to eliminating all discriminatory practices.

This proposal seeks to enhance equal of opportunity by improving service standards and increasing re-housing options for all customers. The procurement of B&B contracts will build in enhanced standards for people living in B&B accommodation. People will have additional rights through use of service specification, and thus will have increased empowerment. This applies to all protected characteristics.

The service provided advances the equality of opportunity by enabled clients, many from protected characteristics, to move on successfully from homeless. The housing options pathways workstream will assist clients to access a wider range of housing and many mainstream services that would not have been open to them.

People who are vulnerable to homeless can be perceived to be at a disadvantage compared to other, more settled, sections of society. By improving service standards and enhancing a person-centered approach this proposal aims to tackle possible bias and potential disadvantage and therefore contributes positively to foster good relations by reducing prejudice.

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

Revised B&B contracts will be monitored to ensure that the service provider supports the Council evidence its ongoing regard to the public sector equality duty.

Sign Off (print name and position and contact details)

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Carbon Impact Assessment Template

BUDGET OPTION SfC1 Reduce Expenditure on Agency Staff.				
LEAD OFFICER Jackie Bryceland				
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*