



# Equality Impact Assessment

## Partial Assessment Form

Policy, Practice, Function or Project Assessed: Digital Inclusion

Lead Officer: Peter Moston

Team: Housing Strategy Enabling and Development

Start date of assessment: 23 February 2015

Completion of assessment:

Please use this form to record your findings in relation to the assessment of an existing policy, function, service or practice.

## Policy, Practice, Function or Project to be Assessed:

### A1. Please describe what the main aims, objectives, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy or function?

The Digital Inclusion Strategy sets out how we will promote and improve digital services to our tenants and leaseholders within the District over the next two years. We expect the outcome to be more households having access to the internet and having access to a pool of volunteers / IT champions able to help people get access to on-line information and services.

### A2. Is this policy or function associated with any other Council policy or priority?

Yes – The Housing Strategy 2012 / 2013 to 2016 / 2017, Housing Service Annual Service Plan, Resident Involvement Strategy. This strategy also fits in with Central and our Local Government agendas of 'Digital by default'.

### A3. Who are the intended beneficiaries / stakeholders of the policy or function?

This strategy will focus on South Cambridge District Council tenants and leaseholders who currently do not have access to the internet. South Cambridgeshire have 5,761 tenant and leaseholder households. National statistics estimate that 82% of the adult population have access to the internet so this leaves approximately 1,037 South Cambridgeshire tenants and leaseholders to target. We have recently carried out our own customer survey which suggests that more than 18% of South Cambridgeshire stock does not have access to the internet so this figure could be higher. Further research will be needed in this respect.

A4. Is the policy / function corporate or far reaching?

Yes – The strategy links in well with the three corporate aims of Engagement, Partnerships and Wellbeing and potentially will provide financial and personal benefits such as helping with finding employment and access to cheaper services as well as helping people to gain confidence and promoting community involvement.

A5. Are you expecting to make any significant change to your policy or service in the near future? If so, please give details.

No.

A6. Is this a new or existing policy or function?

New policy.

## B. Evidence / Data and Consultation:

It is important to consider all information that is available in determining whether the policy or function could have a differential impact. Please attach examples of monitoring information, research or consultation reports.

B1. What monitoring or other information do you have about relevant target groups, which will show the impact of the policy or function?

This work will form part of the strategy.

B2. Have you compared the data you have with the equality profile of the local population? What does it show?

Whilst we have some data from our own recent Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) survey information, this work will form part of the strategy.

B3. Have you identified any improvements or other changes that could be made from monitoring the data?

We will be reviewing this as part of the implementation of the strategy.

B4. Have you consulted or involved external stakeholders about the policy or function? If so, what were their views?

We have consulted with our Tenant Participation group (TPG) over aspects of the new strategy and have provided some IT training days for TPG members which has resulted in an increase in internet access amongst TPG members. Additional external research will take place as a result of adopting the strategy.

B5. Have you undertaken any consultation with staff to assess their perception of any impacts of the policy or function? If so, what had been learnt from them?

Housing Services Management Team have been involved in the development of this strategy and staff consultation has taken place. Everyone involved has been positive about promoting digital inclusion and internet access take up.

B6. Please provide information about any of the consultation, research, or involvement undertaken in relation to this impact assessment.

None

## C1. Impact of the Policy or Function

Assess the potential impact on each of the following protected characteristics. The impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you assess a negative impact for any of the groups then you will need to assess whether that impact is low, medium or high. Refer to the evidence you use.

Description of impact	Nature of impact (Positive, Neutral, Adverse).	Extent of impact (Low, Medium, High).
<p>Age:</p> <p>Identify the potential impacts of the policy or function on different age groups.</p> <p>Targeting is likely to be more for older people who are less likely to have internet access and therefore will need more support however the strategy is inclusive of all age groups.</p>	Neutral	–
<p>Disability:</p> <p>Identify the potential impact of policy or function on disabled people.</p> <p>Households which contain a person with a disability are more likely statistically to be digitally excluded so this strategy is more likely to have a positive impact on those households.</p>	Positive	–
<p>Gender reassignment:</p> <p>Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on people that have changed gender identity.</p>	Neutral	–

<p>This policy is inclusive to people who have undergone or are undergoing gender reassignment but is not specific to gender reassignment.</p>		
<p><b>Marriage and Civil Partnerships:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on people who are married or in a civil partnership.</p> <p>This policy is inclusive to people regardless of their marital status but is not specific to marriage or civil partnerships.</p>	Neutral	–
<p><b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b> Identify the potential impact of the function on pregnant or maternal mothers and those women who wish to breastfeed.</p> <p>This policy is inclusive to pregnant and maternal mothers but is not specific to pregnancy or maternity.</p>	Neutral	–
<p><b>Race:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different religious / faith groups.</p> <p>This policy is inclusive to different ethnic groups, including national origins, colour and nationality, but is not specific to race.</p>	Neutral	–
<p><b>Religion / Belief:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different religious / faith groups.</p>	Neutral	–

<p>This policy is inclusive and applies to people of all religious / belief groups but is not specific to religion / belief.</p>		
<p><b>Sex:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on men and women.</p> <p>This policy is inclusive and applies to both men and women but is not specific to sex.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>–</p>
<p><b>Sexual Orientation:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on lesbian, gay men, bisexual, or heterosexual people.</p> <p>This policy is inclusive and applies to lesbian, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual people, but is not specific to sexual orientation.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>–</p>
<p><b>Other characteristics specific to South Cambridgeshire – Rurality:</b> Identify the potential impact on the policy or function on people who are rurally isolated.</p> <p>The policy will have a positive impact on rurally isolated households by providing a range of advice and support available at more locations throughout the District making it easier for people to access services locally.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>–</p>

Please note: following the completion of the section above, if the nature of the impact is adverse then you may need to proceed to a full equality impact assessment.

C2. Could you minimise or remove any adverse or potential impact that is high, medium or low significance, in advance of a full impact assessment? Explain how.

None

C3. Does the policy or function actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations? Or could changes be made so that it does so?

By promoting community hub locations throughout the District, it is hoped to promote good community links within the areas where internet access is installed.

C4. Does the policy or function actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations? Or could it be made so that it does so?

None

## D. Conclusions:

D1. Was there sufficient data to complete the partial assessment?

Yes.

If 'no', what arrangements in place for evidence gathering and continuing with the assessment?

Although more research will be needed in order to successfully implement the policy.

D2. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have an adverse impact (medium or high impact) on one of more target group?

No.

If 'yes', will you proceed to a full assessment? If so, what arrangements are in place to carry out a full assessment?

None

D3. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have a neutral or positive impact on equalities?

Yes.

If 'yes', have you included proposals in the Action Plan to further improve the impact of the policy or function on inequalities?

None

Do you plan to review the service or policy again in future to assess whether there has been any change? If so, when?

This will be monitored and updated annually and reported through the Housing Services Management Team.

Has the Equalities Steering Group and the Consultative Forum reviewed the assessment? If so, what were their comments?

None

D4. Do you have any other conclusions / outcomes from the partial assessment?

None

## Action Plan for enhancing existing practice:

Recommendation / issue to be addressed	Planned Milestone	Planned completion of milestone (date)	Officer Responsible	Progress
Continued monitoring and reporting through Housing Services Management Team.	Adoption of strategy by Housing portfolio holder.	April 2015	Peter Moston	–
	Recruitment of Housing / digital projects post.	April 2015	Peter Moston / Julie Fletcher	–

## Resources:

Does the above action plan require any additional resources?

Yes – recruitment of Housing Projects one year post to carry out research and deliver new strategy

## Arrangements for monitoring:

Please give your plans for monitoring the achievements of the above actions:

Through Housing Services Management Team.

Sign off:

The officers below confirm that this partial assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's guidance:

Signature of Lead Officer:

Date:

Signature of Corporate Manager or Chief Officer:

Date:

(Please retain the original form on your service area and return a copy of the completed form to the Equality & Diversity Officer).