

## Equality Impact Assessment

### **Purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment process:**

The Equality Act (2010) introduced the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) requiring public bodies to give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

Consideration must be given to the protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act (2010). Assessments should consider relevant evidence relating to persons with protected characteristics in relation to assessments of potential impact.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that policies, functions, plans or decisions (hereafter referred to as 'policy/ decision') do not create unnecessary barriers for people protected under the Act. Where negative impacts are identified these should be eliminated or minimised, and opportunities for positive impact should be maximised. An EIA is not required for a decision in relation to an individual.

Screening is a short exercise to determine whether a policy/ decision is relevant to equalities, and if so, whether a full EIA should be conducted.

## Section 1: Equality Impact Assessment Screening

Title and description of the policy/ decision:	MDH Repairs and Maintenance Policy		
Job title of the person(s) undertaking the assessment:	Policy Officer		
Council service:	Housing		
Date of assessment:	01.08.2024		
What are the aims, purposes, objectives and proposed outcomes of the policy/ decision?			
<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure that MDH's repairs and maintenance service meet all of our landlord obligations with regard to legal and contractual requirements and to explain tenant responsibilities in relation to the Tenancy Agreement.</p> <p>The objective is to clarify what tenants can expect of MDH in relation to servicing, repairs and planned works.</p>			
Who may be affected by the policy/ decision?	All MDH Tenants		
How have stakeholders been involved in the development of the policy/ decision? E.g. a consultation exercise	Consultation exercise was undertaken between—which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenants</li> <li>• Members of the Homes PDG</li> </ul>		
Will there be scope for prompt, independent reviews and appeals against decisions arising from the policy/ decision?	MDH reviews its practices as lessons learned when dealing with complaints raised by tenants		
To which part(s) of the Public Sector Equality Duties is the policy/ decision relevant:			
	Yes	No	Details
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Policy does not discriminate against those who are older, have a disability or are vulnerable
2. Advance equality of opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Foster good relations between different groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Which of the protected characteristics is the policy/ decision relevant to?**

*Tick and briefly describe any likely equalities impact (positive, negative, or neutral)*

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Comments
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We may increase the priority of repairs for older tenants, those with disabilities or vulnerabilities but this will be

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Comments
				considered on an individual basis
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We may increase the priority of repairs for older tenants, those with disabilities or vulnerabilities but this will be considered on an individual basis
Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy/ maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage and Civil partnership*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

\*Applies only to Employment and the duty to give regard to the elimination of discrimination.

**Decision by Corporate Manager to recommend this policy/ decision for an Equality Impact Assessment?**

**Yes/ No**

**If the answer is “Yes”, please continue to the Section 2 and complete the Equality Impact Assessment. If the answer is “No”, please give a brief reason here.**

**EIA Screening Complete**

## Section 2: Equality Impact Assessment

### Evidence and Consultation

What existing sources of information have you gathered to help identify how people covered by the protected characteristics may be affected by this policy/ decision? E.g. consultations, national or local data and/or research, complaints or customer feedback. Please identify any gaps in the available information that might make it difficult to form an opinion about the effect of the policy on different groups.

MDH has a collection of housing related policies. The use of these helps to ensure that service delivery is consistent and fair. These are currently being reviewed with the aim of aligning them more closely with the Regulatory Standards.

Furthermore, there is a regulatory requirement for registered providers of social housing to tailor their services to meet the needs of tenants. MDH collects data on the diversity of tenants and endeavours to tailor services to meet the needs of all tenants and to enable compliance to be monitored.

MDH records details of all vulnerable tenants in able to support their needs. This includes making reasonable adjustments in dealing with vulnerable tenants so that they are comfortable when we interact with them.

When repairs or maintenance are required MDH ensures that the tenant is communicated to by their preferred channel and that they understand the importance of allowing access to their home to complete the check.

Whilst officers and contractors attend homes to specifically carry out repairs or maintenance they will check any tenants observed who appear vulnerable or if there are safeguarding concerns which will be reported to the Neighbourhood Officer. The Neighbourhood Officer will then contact the tenant to establish if they need additional support to be able to sustain their tenancies.

Please complete this table for all the Protected Characteristics. If you have identified any negative impacts you will need to consider how these can be justified or where possible mitigated either to reduce or remove them. (Please add rows where needed)

Potential Impacts/ Issues Identified/ Opportunities identified	Mitigation required (action) or Justification	Lead Officer and target completion date	What is the expected outcome from the action?
<b>Sex</b>			
No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Age</b>			
Older tenants may be adversely affected when a repairs is required as they may not be able to use alternative facilities	We may increase the priority of repairs for older tenants, those with disabilities or vulnerabilities but this will be considered on an individual basis	Repairs and Maintenance Manager	That target time for completion of repairs take into consideration the age &/or vulnerability of the tenant
<b>Disability</b>			
As above			
<b>Religion or Belief</b>			
No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Race</b>			
No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			

No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>			
No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Pregnancy/ maternity</b>			
No Impacts/Issues or opportunities identified			
<b>Marriage and Civil partnership</b> (Applies only to Employment and the duty to give regard to the elimination of discrimination)			
Not Applicable			

**Please provide details of arrangements to monitor and review the policy/ decision and any mitigating actions or actions to promote equality:**

MDH will review this Policy every 5 years and as required to address legislative, regulatory, best practice or operational issues. However the Head of Housing and Health is given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Policy as required by legislative changes, formal guidance or local operational considerations. There were no mitigating actions to be taken to promote equality.

**Please state where the EIA will be published (e.g. on the Mid Devon District Council website):**

Mid Devon Housing Website

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**Equality Impact Assessment Sign off**

**For completion by Corporate Manager**

**Are you prepared to agree and sign off the EIA?**

**Yes**                       **No**

If "No", provide details of why and next steps:

**Name: Simon Newcombe**

**Job Title: Head of Housing and Health**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**