

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Housing Rent, Service Charges And Other Charges 2017/18
Directorate	Place
Service Area	Landlord Services
Type	Reviewed Policy
EA Summary	Impact on service users of changes to Housing Rent, Service Charges and other Charges 2017/18 financial year. Including revised Temporary Accommodation Charges.
Reference Number	EA001774
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Date Approved	2017-01-17 00:00:00 +0000
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Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a Reviewed Policy.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?

Aims: These proposals for 2017/18 do not propose to alter the ring-fenced HRAs core activity which is to provide and support the delivery of Council housing as part of an overall balanced budget. These proposals for 2017/18 also do not propose to alter the core activity of the Housing Options Service.

Objectives: Fully consistent with the housing priorities set out in the Council Business Plan and Budget 2017+ and the HRA Business Plan 2017+ to provide affordable and sustainable housing for residents, and to provide a Housing Options Service.

Outcomes: The rent and service charge income is the key component of the HRA Budget and the revised income that will be generated for both 2017/18 and future years from these proposals, when taken alongside other budget proposals, will ensure that the HRA Self-Financing Settlement continues to be affordable.

The proposals are consistent with the revised National Rent Policy that was confirmed in July 2015 for implementation from April 2016.

Temporary Accommodation rent income is a key component of the Housing Options Service Budget and the revised income that will be generated for both 2017/18 and future years from these proposals, when taken alongside other budget proposals, will ensure that the Housing Options Service continues to be affordable.

Benefits: Proposals will ensure that services to Council tenants can continue to be maintained at an appropriate level and also may provide potential regeneration opportunities.

Proposals will ensure that the Housing Options Service can continue to be maintained at an appropriate level.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children A Great City To Grow Up In	No
Health - A Great City To Grow Old In	No
Housing - A Great City To Live In	Yes
Jobs And Skills - A Great City To Succeed In	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	No

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Not Relevant	No
Disability	Not Relevant	No
Gender	Not Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Not Relevant	No
Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not Relevant	No
Race	Not Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Not Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Not Relevant	No

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

The Housing Rent Charges for 2017/18 will be applied, without exception, to all tenants of the Council. The other charges reviewed as a part of this report will be applied for all service users in receipt of the underlying services. Additionally, the Service Charges are subject to regular reviews to ensure they remain appropriate and that they offer value for money for all users of these services.

There will be no negative effect on people in respect of disability, gender, including gender identity, race, age, religion and belief and sexual orientation as a result of these proposals.

A Full Equality Assessment is not required.

It is estimated that 75% of council tenants will be insulated from the full impact of the revised charges from 3 April 2017 as they are eligible for support towards their housing costs through housing benefit or universal credit. Those tenants who require assistance will continue to be offered additional financial planning advice through the Central Housing Rents Team and Debt Advice Services in order to reassess and maximise benefit entitlement, and to help tenants to budget effectively.

The income that will be generated in the HRA in 2017/18 and future years from the proposed changes, when taken alongside other budget proposals, will ensure that the HRA Self-Financing Settlement continues to be affordable, whilst ensuring that services to tenants can be maintained at an appropriate level.

Consultation

Internal:

The Deputy Leader has been consulted on the proposed charges for 2017/18 and supports this report proceeding to executive decision. The Director of Finance has also been fully consulted and is supportive of the recommendations. Officers from City Finance and Legal Services have been involved in the drafting of this report.

External:

City Housing Liaison Board considered the rent proposals contained within this report at their meeting on 19 January 2017.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact arising from these proposals.

The Housing Rent Charges for 2017/18 will be applied, without exception, to all tenants of the Council. The other charges reviewed as a part of this report will be applied for all service users in receipt of the underlying services. Additionally, the Service Charges are subject to regular reviews to ensure they remain appropriate and that they offer value for money for all users of these services.

There will be no negative effect on people in respect of disability, gender, including gender identity, race, age, religion and belief and sexual orientation as a result of these proposals.

4 Review Date

03/01/18

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.