

Service being assessed	Strategic Housing
Who will be involved in completing this assessment?	Tracey Slater SUM (Strategic Housing and Housing Options)
Date of Review	July 2011
Date of Next Review	July 2012
What is the purpose of the service?	<p>To manage and promote the Borough's Housing Enabling role to deliver a range of affordable housing options to meet identified needs and priorities in partnership with RSL's, private developers, landlords and other agencies.</p> <p>To implement the Local Investment Plan.</p>
Is this assessment being undertaken because of changes to the service? If so what are they?	Assessment being undertaken as part of Council's annual review of equalities information, not because of change to service/policy.
<p>The purpose of this review is to understand how services can help the Council to meet its duties under Equalities legislation. The duties can be summarised as:</p> <p>1. Eliminate discrimination</p>	The team use national and regional research, studies, policy and legislation to develop affordable housing options, opportunities and policies for the Borough. This is supplemented by local level housing needs information identified by the Housing Options service, currently undergoing a system thinking review.

<p>2. Advance equality of opportunity 3. Foster good relations between different parts of the community</p> <p>How does this service help the Council to do this, in particular in relation to the categories specifically mentioned in legislation - Race, Gender/Sex, Disability, Age, Religion/Belief, Gender Reassignment, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy &amp; Maternity and in respect of Duty 1 only – Marriage and Civil Partnerships?</p>	
<p>How will you know that service is working as it should?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer feedback – not just housing applicants but other external organisations such as RSL's, Private Developers and Landlords, Voluntary Agencies and Homes and Communities Agency</li> <li>• Compliments, complaints and comments fed through the corporate service</li> </ul>
<p>What data have you used to help you make this assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and regional policies, legislation, research and information</li> <li>• Local Housing Needs information</li> <li>• Feedback from Systems Thinking Intervention into Housing Options</li> </ul>
<p>Is there any additional data that you need to collect to help in continuous improvement?</p>	<p>Similar to Housing Options Equality Information Review 2011 – feedback from Customers on their experience with the service, did we assist with their housing problem?</p> <p>Accommodation shortage – need to identify new development and funding opportunities.</p>

<p>How have you ensured that this service has been designed from a customer's perspective and how have you involved customers in that process?</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Has any other consultation been carried out, including to ensure that we have taken into consideration the needs of those not currently using the service?</p>	<p>Any new Housing Options will be publicised to attract those not currently using the service.</p>
<p>What is, or what do you expect to be the impact of the way you work on different parts of the community, including those covered by equality legislation?</p>	<p><b>Who benefits?</b> All who live, work or visit the Borough as we look to develop a range of affordable housing options which enhance the wider community as well as meeting customer's individual housing need.</p> <p><b>Who should be expected to benefit but don't – Why not?</b> Service should be accessible to all.</p>
<p>On the basis of what you have found out, which of these options will you now follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes</li> <li>• Adjust the policy</li> <li>• <b>Continue the policy</b></li> <li>• Stop and remove the policy</li> </ul> <p>This is a review – not a new policy or service. As and when it is proposed to change the service or policies, new assessments will be completed.</p>

What now needs to be done and by who?	The team will take account of any changes in national or regional legislation when enabling the development of affordable housing. Need to assess local housing need in the light of the systems thinking review of Housing Options when completed.
Signed off by	Tracey Slater SUM (Strategic Housing and Housing Options)