

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment**

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

**EqIA Titular information:**

Date:	20/08/2020
Service:	Corporate Services
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	<b>Help to Heat ECO scheme</b>
Completed by:	Matthew Johnston
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	No
Signed off by:	
Sign off date:	

87

**1. Policy, Project or service information:**

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

**What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:**

The purpose of the Help to Heat ECO scheme is to access funding via ECO3 which is a national scheme for HRA housing stock properties as well as to expand the eligibility criteria for private households via the councils ECO flex Statement of Intent. When published Wokingham Borough Council's Statement of Intent will allow for households within the borough to qualify for ECO funding using a larger set of eligibility criteria based on need.

The expected outcomes of the Help to Heat ECO scheme are that it will provide funding for energy improvement measures on both HRA housing stock properties as well as private households resulting in lower energy use as well as potentially costs for those properties.

The Help to Heat ECO scheme relates to the council wide core plan for the Borough to be carbon neutral by 2030 and progresses this goal through reducing carbon emissions in eligible low energy efficiency properties locally.

**Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members ect) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:**

The Help to Heat ECO scheme is being undertaken by the Energy team in co-ordination with Housing; as well as this Energy is working with the communications/engagement and Marketing team to arrangement advertisement of both our Help to Heat scheme as well as the wider ECO3 national scheme.

Once approved by the executive the scheme will be delivered for our HRA housing stock residents through the housing department providing the necessary survey and contact data to Energy to query with the resident if they would like to access funding via Insta Group Ltd.

Energy will be working with the communications/engagement and marketing team to ensure advertisement of ECO in all aspects to our residents in as wide a scope as is possible.

The scheme will be run by the Energy team as part of commercial property under Bernie Pich with Graham Ebers having overview as director of corporate services. All appropriate stakeholders will be notified of and consulted regarding any possible considered changes to any aspect of the project though it is likely the project will not require notable changes.

**Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?**

The main beneficiaries of the proposed scheme are all of the residents in Borough with lower EPC rated properties and those likely to suffer from fuel poverty as well as individual who are LIVC (Low Income and Vulnerable to Cold).

This scheme ensures wider eligibility criteria for residents in relation to an aspect of an already existing national energy grant scheme.

**Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:**

The associated aims of the project are to alleviate fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions by helping the least energy efficient properties within the borough access funding for energy efficiency improvement measures.

This scheme broadly assists WBC in moving towards its stated aim of being carbon neutral by 2030 by way of reducing carbon emissions in some of the boroughs least energy efficient properties.

## 2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

*To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

## 3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

*For information on how to define No, low or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.*

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

*For details on what constitutes a positive impact, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.

Gender:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.
Disabilities:	Neutral/Positive	The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. The council's ECO flex statement of Intent expands criteria for ECO eligibility for those likely to be low income & vulnerable to cold (LIVC) which can be of positive benefit to some residents of this protected group.
Age:	Neutral/Positive	The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. The council's ECO flex statement of Intent expands criteria for ECO eligibility for those likely to be low income & vulnerable to cold (LIVC) which can be of positive benefit to some residents of this protected group.
Sexual orientation:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.
Religion/belief:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.
Gender re-assignment:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.

Marriage and civil partnership:	No/Neutral	The eligibility for ECO3 funding is set by BEIS nationally. The parameters on Wokingham Borough Council's 'Help to Heat' ECO flex scheme has its expanded qualifying criteria limited by BEIS. All national ECO3 funding criteria is based on the energy efficiency of the property in question as well as various qualifying benefits set by government to show the household is likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty. All additional qualifying measures undertaken by WBC as part of our 'Help to Heat' scheme are within legislation parameters.
---------------------------------	------------	---

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low of high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by....

Date: 20/08/2020

This page is intentionally left blank