

Impact Needs/Requirement Assessment Completion Form

Department: Regeneration and Major Projects	Person Responsible: Ian Hamilton
Service Area: New Initiatives Team	Timescale for Equality Impact Assessment : 17 th October 2011 Executive
Date: 27 th September 2011	Completion date: 27 September 2011
Name of service/policy/procedure/project etc: South Kilburn Regeneration: Authority to Tender Contract For A Decentralised Energy System	Is the service/policy/procedure/project etc: New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Old <input type="checkbox"/>
Predictive <input type="checkbox"/> Retrospective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact Not found <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Found <input type="checkbox"/> Service/policy/procedure/project etc, amended to stop or reduce adverse impact Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is there likely to be a differential impact on any group? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please state below:
1. Grounds of race: Ethnicity, nationality or national origin e.g. people of different ethnic backgrounds including Gypsies and Travellers and Refugees/ Asylum Seekers Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Grounds of gender: Sex, marital status, transgendered people and people with caring responsibilities Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Grounds of disability: Physical or sensory impairment, mental disability or learning disability Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Grounds of faith or belief: Religion/faith including people who do not have a religion Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Grounds of sexual orientation: Lesbian, Gay and bisexual Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Grounds of age: Older people, children and young People Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation conducted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Person responsible for arranging the review: N/A	Person responsible for publishing results of Equality Impact Assessment: N/A
Person responsible for monitoring: Joyce Ip	Date results due to be published and where: N/A
Signed:	Date: N/A

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Please note that you must complete this form if you are undertaking a formal Impact Needs/Requirement Assessment. You may also wish to use this form for guidance to undertake an initial assessment, please indicate.

1. What is the service/policy/procedure/project etc to be assessed?

South Kilburn Regeneration: Authority to Tender Contract For A Decentralised Energy System

2. Briefly describe the aim of the service/policy etc? What needs or duties is it designed to meet? How does it differ from any existing services/ policies etc in this area

A decentralised energy (DE) scheme involves hot water being pumped from an energy centre where heat will be generated by a district-wide combined heat and power (CHP) plant which generates electricity whilst also capturing usable heat that is produced in this process. To meet heating demand in winter, centralised boilers will be installed in the energy centre. The pipe carries this heated water through each building which is fitted with a heat exchanger that allows taking the heat from the network. Each property drawing heat from the heat pipe is metered for heat consumption (for hot water and central heating) and will pay for this heat accordingly. As part of the decentralised energy supply scheme, an energy supply company (ESCO) will be formed to deal with billing and collection of payments for heat supply and to install, maintain and manage the boiler system and heat network. Under the scheme as envisaged that the ESCOs will be operated by an outside company.

The decentralised energy system aims to

- a) Provide lower energy costs for residents
- b) Ensure that the district heating solution is no more costly than individual block solutions
- c) Make significant CO₂ savings
- d) Ensure delivery and risks taken by energy companies and not by the Council or its partner developers
- e) Be better placed to meet higher Sustainable Code Levels in the future
- f) Be a technically sound and reliable energy centre

3. Are the aims consistent with the council's Comprehensive Equality Policy?

The council's Equality and Diversity Policy statement makes reference to the importance of ensuring that the services that we provide meet the needs of the community. The policy seeks to ensure that everyone has equal access to services, regardless of their race, heritage, gender, religious or non religious belief, nationality, family background, age, disability or sexuality. Services must be relevant, responsive and sensitive, and the council must be perceived as equitable in its provision of services by its service users, partners and the wider community.

The decentralised energy system will provide heat and hot water to all new developments in South Kilburn regardless who lives there. Customer heat price (lower than the retail price) and provision of customer services (experience, billing and quality) will be parts of the criteria to select the energy service company (ESCO) to deliver the DE project.

4. Is there any evidence to suggest that this could affect some groups of people? Is there an adverse impact around race/gender/disability/faith/sexual orientation/health etc? What are the reasons for this adverse impact?

There is no evidence that the delivery of the proposed decentralised energy system would adversely impact on certain groups of people, and on the contrary would provide a number of benefits to new and existing residents.

In general terms, disabled and black and ethnic minority groups are over represented in social housing. Any system that can provide improved energy bills and services could therefore impact more positively on these groups.

5. Please describe the evidence you have used to make your judgement. What existing data for example (qualitative or quantitative) have you used to form your judgement? Please supply us with the evidence you used to make you judgement separately (by race, gender and disability etc).

The South Kilburn regeneration Programme has been in inception since 2004 and aims to deliver the mutual improvement objectives in the Housing Strategy and the Regeneration Strategy to improve housing, community facilities, improvements in attainment and social cohesion. The Council confirms its general judgement through analysis of the 2001 Census, which gives a breakdown of ethnic background and disability by tenure. The Council carries out home visits on the tenants moving into new developments and this confirms the analysis above.

6. Are there any unmet needs/requirements that can be identified that affect specific groups? (Please refer to provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act and the regulations on sexual orientation and faith, Age regulations/legislation if applicable)

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None identified.

7. Have you consulted externally as part of your assessment? Who have you consulted with? What methods did you use? What have you done with the results i.e. how do you intend to use the information gathered as part of the consultation?

When the planning applications were submitted for Cambridge, Ely and Wells Courts, Wood House, Hicks Bolton and the Roundabout sites, the proposal for the installation of a decentralised energy system was consulted as part of the formal planning consultation process. The DE proposal was also presented to the South Kilburn Neighbourhood Trust which consists of housing associations, local resident representatives and Brent Housing Partnership. The GLA has also been consulted on the prospect of a decentralised energy system in South Kilburn as part of a heat mapping study funded by the GLA. Subsequently, the GLA's Decentralised Energy Project Delivery Unit (DEPDU) funded by the EU will support Brent with DE technical advice on specifications and delivery phasing plan.

8. Have you published the results of the consultation, if so where?

The results of the planning consultation can be found in Planning Committee reports.

9. Is there a public concern (in the media etc) that this function or policy is being operated in a discriminatory manner?

No, but the tenants would like assurance that the disabled and elderly tenants have a system that is simple to use and that water and electricity charges are explained simply.

10. If in your judgement, the proposed service/policy etc does have an adverse impact, can that impact be justified? You need to think about whether the proposed service/policy etc will have a positive or negative effect on the promotion of equality of opportunity, if it will help eliminate discrimination in any way, or encourage or hinder community relations.

The Council will ensure that in any procurement exercise, any new energy system will be explained to residents. The housing associations, who will let the properties, have agreed to help residents when they move in and provide a clear explanation about the new energy supply, how to operate it and understand the billing system. The Council will also ensure that and heat billing is clear and available in different formats such as Braille, and a helpline service is available,

11. If the impact cannot be justified, how do you intend to deal with it?

n/a

12. What can be done to improve access to/take up of services?

n/a

13. What is the justification for taking these measures?

n/a

14. Please provide us with separate evidence of how you intend to monitor in the future. Please give the name of the person who will be responsible for this on the front page.

A number of aspects of the South Kilburn Programme are monitored by the Planning Service's Annual Monitoring Report, which is published yearly and provides information on completions and building standards. Progress on the programme itself is monitored by the Capital Portfolio Office's Project Management Initiation documents, and progress on the Programme is reported monthly to the South Kilburn Programme Board.

15. What are your recommendations based on the conclusions and comments of this assessment?

The South Kilburn Programme is positively delivering new high quality homes and community facilities for new and existing residents of South Kilburn, and the proposed decentralised energy system enables new developments in South Kilburn to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, otherwise the planning consents would not be granted. All the approved new developments in South Kilburn are required by planning Section 106 Agreements to connect to the district heat network. Findings of this Equalities Impact Assessment support the procurement of the decentralised energy system.

The Council will build safeguards for more vulnerable tenants into the procurement process.

Should you:

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1. Take any immediate action? No
2. Develop equality objectives and targets based on the conclusions? No
3. Carry out further research? No

16. If equality objectives and targets need to be developed, please list them here.

n/a

17. What will your resource allocation for action comprise of?

n/a

If you need more space for any of your answers please continue on a separate sheet

Signed by the manager undertaking the assessment:

Full name (in capitals please): DAVE CARROLL

Date: 27 September 2011

Service Area and position in the council: Head of New Initiatives Team, Regeneration and Major Projects

Details of others involved in the assessment - auditing team/peer review:

Once you have completed this form, please take a copy and send it to: **The Corporate Diversity Team, Room 5 Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9HD**

An online version of this form is available on the Corporate Diversity Team website.