

Title of action plan being assessed	LI 2.2 (Affordable Housing)
Number of Action plan being assessed (e.g COL 3)	SE13
LAA indicator	LI 2.2
Name and role of officer completing this assessment	Ian Vipond
Contact Telephone Number	01206 282717
Date Assessment Completed	4 October 2008
Which Partners are involved?	All District Councils RSLs

1. What are the aims and objectives of this action plan, in addition to achieving LAA indicator target? i.e. What do you want to achieve?

To increase the number of new affordable housing and reduce homelessness where preventable using shared resources, experience and skills

2. What are the processes used to deliver the action plan?

- Each of the partners has its own Equality and Diversity policies and many are subject to robust regulation from the Audit commission , Housing Corporation etc
- All local district authorities must have an Allocation Policy which is fair and equitable. Some of the 12 local authorities operate a common Choice Base Lettings Scheme (Braintree, Colchester and Maldon) where equality and diversity issues are an essential element of the scheme.

3.a. Think about each of the equality groups in turn. Could your action plan have an adverse or positive effect on people in the group? Put a tick against any group that could be positively affected, and a cross against any group that could be negatively affected. Some groups may have a tick and a cross.

✓	x	Race and Culture	✓x	Disability
✓	x	Age	✓	Gender
✓		Sexual orientation	✓	Religion and Belief
✓		Rurality	✓	Economic deprivation

3.b. Set out the issues that you think are relevant under each equality strand, and what changes you will make to the action plan as a result.

Race and Culture

Not being aware of housing options –addressed through Strategic planning and policies and procedures

Age

Older people- living in unsuitable housing.
Build more social housing and ensure older people are aware of options

Sexual Orientation

No evidence of issues to date

Disability

Lack of availability of homes suited to their needs.
A % will be lifetime homes which are much better suited to those people with physical disability.

Gender

Single parent families in need of housing are more likely to be headed by women

Religion and Belief

Rural Isolation

Inadequate provision of affordable housing in rural locations near to family and place of work.

The plan will have positive effects as the aim is to provide more affordable homes in rural locations for people who would otherwise find it difficult to benefit from affordable housing in their community.

Economic Disadvantage

Inability to afford quality sustainable housing in an area that is of their choice.
Problems of high cost of fuel to enable people to be able to afford to heat their home without fear of debt.
Increase in mortgage arrears leading to eviction.

The plan has a positive effect –as development of affordable housing will be beneficial to those that are economically disadvantaged

4. What data or other evidence could you use to help you to support or dispute your initial conclusions? How will you collect this evidence and/or how you will check your presumptions by consulting with particular equality and diversity groups?

Complete the tables below. Identify the evidence you need and the questions that you need answer to. If you feel that particular organisations or community/ voluntary groups will be able to help you please list these too.

DATA PLAN

What is the source of the evidence you have?	What information does it give you?	How will you use the evidence?
Central Govt: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (completed annually by LA to Govt) RSS Annual Monitoring Report		To ensure all new development are available to those in need who meet allocation criteria To plan for appropriate housing based on need
Census Data 2001	Breakdown of BME district by district	to check that applications and customers are representative of the community
Homeless P1Es (LA statistical return to Govt)	Statistical return to Govt –homeless presentations and acceptances, reason for homelessness	to ensure prevention of homelessness is effective and proactive
Core data (Housing Corp)	Statistical information collected by RSLs to Housing Corp	To ensure all new development are available to those in need who meet allocation criteria
Local & Regional		
Essex Equality Diversity Network (EEDN) Essex Race Equality Council	Discussion group-share experience and best practice	
All partners	Regular engagement with tenants/applicant/customers	to ensure that new development meets the needs of customers and to learn from negative feedback when specifying new developments
Annual Monitoring Reports (EERA) data		
Choice Based Lettings/allocation policies	Information on the makeup of applicants and tenants	To ensure all new development are available to those in need who meet allocation criteria
Strategic Housing Market Assessments	Carried out at district level	Assessment of housing requirements/needs of specific households
Regional Housing Advisory Group	Affordability across the Region(including Essex)	An evidence of need
Tendring & Colchester Minority Ethnic Partnership Needs Analysis	A needs analysis of people living in Tendring & Colchester area	to ensure services meet the needs of MEP communities
Local District Authorities and RSLs	Continuous customer satisfaction surveys	
Gypsy & Travellers Study –due Sept08	Interim report available	To understand existing and aspirational housing needs
Facing the Facts- Essex	Comprehensive research results on BME people and Housing in Essex	To understand existing and aspirational housing needs

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want to know?	Who are you going to ask?	What question will you ask?	What will you do with the answer?	Name of planned source (if known)
Satisfaction	Tenants/appliants	What could be done better?	Feed into policy and delivery	Ongoing
Gypsy & Travellers Study –due Sept08		What are your housing needs and aspirations?	Use to shape policy	Due Oct 08
LPF-ongoing	Engagement with public	on affordability issues	Use to plan housing	Ongoing
Essex Supporting People	Tenants/SP users	What could be done better? Does it meet their needs?	To shape SP strategy and provision	ongoing

5. The Essex Partnership needs a copy of this Section of your EIA in order to co-ordinate any public engagement activities. You will be given feed back by the Essex partnership on the best way to manage the public engagement activity you have identified on the form. Please send this completed section of your EIA to the e-mail address below.

Please submit this form to the Essex Partnership team: info@essexpartnership.org