

## **Equality Impact Assessment: Selective & Additional (HMO) Licensing**

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Equality Act 2010 outlines how public bodies must have due regard to:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this act
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

### **2.0 Protected Characteristics**

2.1 Equality Act 2010 is clear that there are particular characteristics that are intrinsic to an individual against which it would be easy to discriminate. Section 149 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) lists the characteristics known as 'protected characteristics' against which we have to test for discrimination. These characteristics are gender, race/ethnicity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity and disability.

2.2 Our new Housing Strategy (2016-20) seeks to; *“Continue to make Sefton a great place to live, by ensuring that people can access high quality housing appropriate for their needs”*. The aim of the licensing schemes is to lead to an improvement of management and property conditions across the designated areas and members of Sefton's Housing Standards Team will be available to offer advice and support to both landlord and tenant.

2.3 In light of the above, the Council has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of proposed licensing schemes. An EIA is a way of assessing the impact, or likely impact, that a particular policy, procedure or decision will have on a particular group(s). EIAs can therefore assist local authorities in identifying potential adverse or negative impacts on particular groups and the necessary action or steps required to, as far as possible, mitigate or eliminate such impacts and promote equality.

### **3.0 Identifying Impacts across protected characteristics**

<b>Protected characteristic</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Neutral	It is not considered that the licensing schemes will have any different impact on people of different sex than the rest of the population.
<b>Age, Disability, race/Ethnicity, Religion or</b>	Positive low	It is anticipated that the licensing schemes will have a positive effect on anti-social behaviour, which may be a positive impact for older people,

<b>Belief.</b>		those with disabilities, people with a BME origin and those who may be persecuted for their religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender assignment.
<b>Age &amp; Disability</b>	Positive low	The changes to the welfare system may have a negative impact on the provision of quality housing availability. Benefit dependant household may be displaced into the licensing areas as a result of Local Housing Allowance rent caps. Licensing seeks some of these negative consequences by improving the quality of the private rented sector housing market and the licensing areas.
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	Positive low	Selective and Additional HMO Licensing will tackle overcrowding and illegal conversions which may have a positive impact on these groups that can often live in the private rented sector
<b>Religion or belief</b>	Positive low	It is anticipated that the licensing schemes will have a positive effect on anti-social behaviour, which may be a positive impact for those who may be persecuted for their religion or belief
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Neutral	It is not considered that the licensing scheme will have any different impact on people of this characteristic than the rest of the population
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	Neutral	It is not considered that the licensing scheme will have any different impact on people of this characteristic than the rest of the population
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Neutral	It is not considered that the licensing scheme will have any different impact on people of this characteristic than the rest of the population
<b>Marriage/Civil partnership</b>	Neutral	It is not considered that the licensing scheme will have any different impact on people of these characteristics than the rest of the population
<b>Deprived area/background</b>	Positive	One of the aims of the schemes is to improve the level of deprivation in the designated areas. The designated areas of the schemes are largely the areas which contain, or are close to, the majority of deprived households in Sefton and as such the implementation of this policy is likely to achieve a positive outcome for people in this group.