

# Coventry City Council Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) Form

*In line with the principles of decision making outlined in the City Council Constitution, the Council will ensure that its decision making is open and transparent, and that due regard is given to the Council's obligations and desire to promote equality of opportunity and equal treatment.*

## Form 1

***This part must be completed and before formal consultation is undertaken and must be available during the consultation stage.***

**Author of this document: Adrian Chowns**

**Name of Service Area/Proposal: Regulatory Services – Empty Dwellings Strategy 2021-2026**

**Head of Service: Andrew Walster**

**Date of completion: July 2021**

### ***Background to the planned changes***

---

**1. What is the background to the planned changes? Why is this change being considered?**

A policy to address empty dwellings in the city was approved in 2014, however it is considered that this now requires updating to reflect changes in legislation and the housing market in Coventry.

Coventry currently has around 1,661 long term empty dwellings recorded with Council Tax with some of these properties being empty for a considerable length of time. This represents 57% of the total number of empty dwellings. The strategy will have three main objectives 1) Advice/Assistance, 2) Enforcement and 3) Prevention, and presents a framework for coordinated work moving forward.

Long term empty dwellings are the main focus of the new strategy.

**2. Who do you need to consider as part of this ECA? *\*stakeholder analysis***

Landlords

Agents

Residents

### ***Pre-Consultation Engagement***

---

*This section refers to any activities that took place (such as briefings, meetings, workshops, scoping exercises etc) with stakeholders before the formal consultation period.*

## Coventry City Council Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) Form

### 3. What engagement activities took place prior to formal consultation and what feedback (if any) was received in relation to equality issues?

There is no requirement to conduct a consultation exercise because the process for dealing with empty dwellings is set out in Government guidance which was developed as part of a national consultation exercise.

#### *Analysis of Impact*

---

In this section please ensure that you consider the three aims of the general duty as they affect **protected groups**. These groups are:

Age  
Disability  
Gender  
Gender reassignment  
Marriage/Civil Partnership  
Pregnancy/Maternity  
Race  
Religion/Belief  
Sexual Orientation

The **three aims of the general duty** require that a public authority, in the exercise of its functions, must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The Policy will not have a negative impact on any protected groups as it not specific to:-

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage/Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race
- Religion/Belief
- Sexual Orientation

The adoption of the new strategy will enable the Council to address issues associated with empty dwellings and will have a positive impact upon all groups. The use of enforcement action detailed in the strategy will enable the Council to take formal enforcement action against owners of empty dwellings that are a blight to our neighbourhoods.

**Coventry City Council  
Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) Form**

- 4. Outline below how this proposal/review could impact on protected groups positively or negatively, and what steps/mitigations (if any) could be taken to reduce any negative impact that has been identified.**

*Note – when identifying potential impacts below, please only include impacts that may exist over and above general impacts that may affect the wider community/population. (For example, a reduction in grant to Coventry Citizens Advice would affect all service users through a reduced level of first line advice being available to all – but it would affect the following groups more; age, disability, gender and race as they represent a larger proportion of the clients who use the advice service.)*

The amendment of the Empty Dwelling Strategy will enable the Council to implement new powers that exist, providing a holistic approach to dealing with problems associated with empty dwellings. In doing so the Council will be improving the standard and management of properties and sending out a positive message that it takes the issue of empty dwellings extremely seriously.

- 5. Are there any other vulnerable groups that could be affected?** i.e. deprivation, looked after children, carers.

Also include any information about the health inequalities/Marmot implications of this proposal. Contact Caroline Ryder ([caroline.ryder@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.ryder@coventry.gov.uk)) or Hannah Watts ([hannah.watts@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.watts@coventry.gov.uk)) in Public Health for more information.

Housing is a key determinant of health and cold, damp, unsafe homes impact on all groups but particularly the young and old. By returning empty dwellings back into use the available stock in Coventry will be increased and improved which will provide a direct improvement in health through better living conditions.

- 6. What are the gaps in evidence? Can this be addressed during the consultation stage?**

National data exists and there is no requirement for a consultation to be carried out. Once the new service is implemented the Council will consider whether there is a need to collect and analyse relevant equalities data.

- 7. What are the likely impacts of this project/review on staff from protected groups?** For further support please contact Andy Hyland ([andy.hyland@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:andy.hyland@coventry.gov.uk) tel: 7683 3426)

Coventry City Council  
Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) Form

## Form 2

*This section should be completed AFTER any consultation has been concluded.*

Author of this document:

Date of completion:

### *Potential Impacts – further information*

---

8. Referring to the information detailed in question 4 of ECA Form 1, state if the potential impacts have been confirmed. Also detail below any additional information about potential impacts that has been highlighted during any consultation.

### *Outcome of equality impact*

---

9. Indicate which of the following best describes the equality impact of this project/review:

There will be **no** equality impact if the proposed option is implemented

There will be **positive** equality impact if the proposed option is implemented

There will be **negative** equality impact if the proposed option is implemented but this can be objectively justified

There will be both **positive and negative** impacts if the proposed option is implemented

### *Summary of ECA*

---

**Write a paragraph below which summarises the key aspects of this ECA.**

*This paragraph should be included in the Equalities/EIA section of any Cabinet/Cabinet Member Report.*

# Coventry City Council Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) Form

## Approvals from Director and Cabinet Member

**Name of ECA Author:** Adrian Chowns

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Director:** Andrew Walster

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor David Welsh and Councillor  
Abdul Khan

**Please detail below any committees, boards or panels that have considered this analysis.**

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Chair</b> | <b>Decision taken</b> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|

### *Next steps*

---

Please send this completed ECA to the Insight Team as follows:

Wendy Ohandjanian ([wendy.ohandjanian@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.ohandjanian@coventry.gov.uk) tel. 7683 2939)

Jaspal Mann ([jaspal.mann@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jaspal.mann@coventry.gov.uk) tel. 7683 3112)