

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Due Regard Statement for the Updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

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| <p>1 Name of the ‘policy’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘policy’ is to equality.</p> | <p>Updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025</p> <p>The updated strategy set out the updated vision and aims building on the progress made in the first five years of the Housing Strategy 2015-2025. The strategy sets out the housing provision, housing-related support provision and the provision through partnership working that will be undertaken taking in to account the change in external influences on housing for residents. For example, changes in legislation, EU exit, Climate Change and emergencies (i.e. floods, Covid-19).</p> <p>In this review, we have refreshed the vision for homes in Doncaster, updated our key aims and outlined the key actions that will be taken over the next five years.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. the delivery of new homes in all tenures, including accelerated investment in the Council House Build Programme to deliver more new affordable homes, more quickly II. the development and start of implementation of a borough-wide housing retrofit programme to improve property condition, and reduce carbon emissions III. increased preventative work on homelessness and rough sleeping, and the expansion of our Housing First accommodation IV. a comprehensive response to new legislation on Building and Fire Safety V. improving our understanding of and more proactive involvement in raising the standards of homes and tenancy management in private rented housing VI. supporting our town centres as shopping and working habits change, with new homes to raise footfall and improve liveability |
| <p>2 Service area responsible for completing this statement.</p> | <p>Strategic Housing</p> |

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| <p>3 Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</p> <p>Service users/residents</p> <p>Doncaster Workforce</p> | <p>The strategy has been produced building on the progress made in the first five years of the initial Housing Strategy (2015-2025). A comprehensive evidence base on the progress of the original objectives has been collected to inform the updated objectives and delivery plan actions for the next five years of the strategy.</p> <p>Housing Needs Survey included analysis at borough-wide level to ward areas, different household sizes, types, incomes, ages and specific analysis on the needs of BME groups, disabled, elderly residents etc. Household surveys, web surveys, focus groups and public consultation events were used to gather input from as diverse range of residents as possible.</p> <p>Following the Housing Needs Survey further in depth analysis of specific groups took place, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Peoples Needs Assessment • Physical Disability Needs Assessment • Accomodation Assessment for people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues: South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System • Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Needs Assessment |
| <p>4 Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster Talks 2019 – community engagement; 3610 responses from across all Doncaster borough’s asking residents what residents like about where they live, what they would like to see improve and what Doncaster should focus on in the future. Response analysis included age and ethnicity break down. The most common responses were related to environmental factors including cleansing and green/open spaces; highlighting the importance of the wider community of where people live. • Stakeholder workshops (including partners, representatives from Voluntary Sector, developers/house builders, planning department, enforcement, public health, St Leger Homes, Doncaster Children’s Services Trust); two workshops were held, the first one to understand the progress so far in the first five years and to determine whether the proposed vision describes what is wanting to be achieved taking on board the drivers driving the update. The second workshop discussed the activities that should be |

included within the updated strategy which emphasized on empowering people in their own homes, particularly those with protected characteristics.

- Consultation with Minorities Partnership Board; proposed vision and objectives were presented with original vision and objectives for comparison. The group felt the changes were sensible. They also highlighted the need to specifically mention BAME communities, which has been included in the strategy.
- Consultation with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group; the group highlighted that there are specific issues that GRT communities experience that other communities do not i.e. some may be excluded from normal communication routes, different ways of engagement will need to be undertaken. These have been factored in to the strategy.
- Support Education and Engagement Project (SEE Project); aimed to identify members of the community who need additional support and those that live in poor housing conditions. The findings have been included in the strategy as many identified fall under having protected characteristics.
- Elected member engagement via presentation at Regeneration and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel; the proposed updated vision, objectives and plans/activities were presented to elected members. Members highlighted a number of factors in related to those with protected characteristics that have been addressed in the strategy e.g. veterans
- Engagement with SLHD Executive Board to ensure that the strategy reflects housing management priorities and the issues identified by tenants
- Engagement with DMBC Directors Leadership team and Cabinet to confirm the review's approach and agree the focus for the next five years

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| <p>5</p> | <p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p> | <p>The analysis from the needs assessments, external influences and progress to date of the original aims have been combined in order to ensure protected characteristics have been considered in the development of the updated aims.</p> <p>Summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth forecasts indicate the population growth will be over and above the baseline expected growth and subsequent analysis shows the amount of additional housing required. • Population projections show increasing proportions of older people highlighting the need for homes to remain suitable for us as we grow older and our needs change • Analysis of disability/Life Limiting illness data shows a need for adapted or adaptable properties. • Affordability analysis shows a need for affordable housing, with a range of house prices and tenures. • Assessment of current gypsy pitch provision and demand shows the need to improve condition and quality of pitches. • SEE Project utilised local community data about housing conditions & and living environment, with specific emphasis on over-crowding and BAME households. This also informed the approach for the Private Rented Sector (PRS). • Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Workers Group Consultation led to an increased focus on addressing inequalities in relation to affordable energy and maintaining a good quality, safe and healthy environment. • Minority Partnership Board were generally positive about the vision and objectives within the refreshed strategy and suggested some amendments that have since been incorporated, for example ensuring the wording of the strategy will allow readability for all (computer-assisted reading). The consultation raised the importance of Private Rented Sector conditions and an increased focus on ensuring tackling housing inequalities faced by BAME communities. |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Decision Making</p> | <p>A summary of the assessments completed in relation to the protected groups has been included in the strategy; and is included within the ‘progress so far’ section. An overview of</p> |

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| | | <p>the analysis from wider consultations have also been included within the strategy.</p> <p>Representatives of some protected groups have been involved leading to amendments in the strategy to ensure the needs and opinions of protected groups are considered.</p> |
| 7 | Monitoring and Review | <p>Progress against the Housing Strategy aims and actions, will be monitored on a regular basis. Progress at an operational level is assessed as part of the council's standard performance management framework, and will be delivered and progress managed by individual teams within services.</p> <p>As part of monitoring and review of the strategy and associated action plans, consultee groups will be re-visited.</p> |
| 8 | Sign off and approval for publication | <p>Karen Lythe Assitant Director for Strategic Housing</p> <p>15.12.20</p> |