



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment

Ipswich Borough Council (137 Lavenham Road, Ipswich, IP2 0LD) Compulsory Purchase Order

Ref: EQIA2018013041

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Title of report: Ipswich Borough Council (137 Lavenham Road, Ipswich, IP2 0LD) Compulsory Purchase Order

Reference: EQIA2018013041

What is the report trying to achieve?:

This property has been empty for 5 years. The aim of Empty Homes Policy is to reduce the number of long term empty homes in Ipswich by returning homes back into use and discouraging owners from leaving properties empty.

Ipswich Borough Council has had an empty property strategy since 1994. Since then, much work has been undertaken in bringing homes back into use through advice, the provision of renovation grant assistance and the threat of compulsory purchase. However, the Council's powers have been limited with the only enforcement action open to it being compulsory purchase, which due to its complexity and resource required has only been used as a last resort.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis?:

Customers complaints/comments, Analysis of service data (e.g I-card)

Supporting documents (if available):

Since a case file was opened back in 2013, Officers have logged supporting evidence of proof to be in a position to demonstrate to the Secretary of State that the Council has tried to work with the owner through advice and the empty homes tool kit (offering grants, selling the property at discounted rates etc.)

Is there potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

- **Age:** *No Impact*
- **Disability:** *No Impact*
- **Marriage & Civil Partnership:** *No Impact*
- **Race:** *No Impact*
- **Pregnancy & Maternity:** *No Impact*
- **Religion or Belief:** *No Impact*
- **Gender Reassignment:** *No Impact*
- **Sex:** *No Impact*
- **Sexual Orientation:** *No Impact*

If 'No Impact' explain why

The Council has no knowledge of whether the owner falls under any of the list as the Council has never meant the owner. Communication is either via written format or telephone. However, as part of the process, the Council always invites the owner to meet on site. This owner has never agreed to meet the Council on site.

If you have identified any negative impacts (above) how can they be minimised or removed?

Are not aware of any negative impact.

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):

The report outlines the background of the property and the communications between both parties.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): The report has section on equality assessment to make the council aware that they have thought about this as part of the process.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): The Empty Homes Policy is designed to understand why a empty home is empty and then the tool kit can help offer the owner the ways to get that empty home back into use through offering grants and other

schemes.