



Ref No: EQ347913957

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Title of report: Housing Income Management Strategy Update

Report : The Housing Income Management Strategy is being updated for 2021 - 2024. The Strategy sets out the overall approach to income management and defines the vision and priorities. It aims to mitigate the impact of welfare reforms and Covid-19 on the tenants and income. It will also help to deliver the objectives of the Tenancy Services Operational Plan to maximise income and sustain tenancies. The Strategy is specifically focused on the Housing Revenue Account income sources.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Analysis of service data (e.g I-card), Research on the impact of Universal Credit

Service area: Tenancy Services

Head of Service or Chief Operating Officer: Ian Blofield

Head of Service email: Ian.Blofield@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

Please upload any supporting documents:

What is proposed?: An updated Housing Income Management Strategy to cover the period 2021 - 2024

Why are the changes being introduced?: The Housing Income Management Strategy for 2018 - 2021 requires updating

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: Tenant data and research

How will this change be implemented?: The Housing Income Management Strategy is being updated. A report will be prepared for Council Executive with a recommendation that Executive approves and adopts the updated Strategy and authorises the Operations Manager for Tenancy Services to take all necessary steps to implement it. An Action Plan is already in place to underpin the Strategy and an Officer group meets monthly to oversee delivery of the action plan.

Age: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. This will have a positive impact on tenants of all ages who as a result will receive an efficient and effective service which will enable the Council to provide quality homes and services. Any tenant who falls behind with their rent will receive support and access to debt, welfare benefit and money management advice.

Disability: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. This will have a positive impact on tenants with a disability who as a result will receive an efficient and effective service which will enable the Council to provide quality homes and services. Any tenant who falls behind with their rent will receive support and access to debt, welfare benefit and money management advice. The Council will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that people with disabilities are not disadvantaged when accessing or receiving income management services. For example, agreeing more time for provision of information, arranging home visits and information in accessible formats.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. No particular impact has been identified for this group however by providing an efficient and effective service will ensure that the Council is able to provide all tenants with quality homes and services,

Race: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. The Strategy will ensure that all tenants receive an efficient and effective service. This includes an awareness of and making every effort to accommodate cultural and religious needs. We will also consider what else we can do to ensure services are accessible. For example providing translation or interpreting services for those whose first language is not English.

Pregnancy & Maternity: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. The Strategy will ensure that all tenants receive an efficient and effective service. Any tenants that require advice or support around payment of rent will receive support and access to debt, welfare benefit and money management advice. This will have a positive impact on this group. For example, tenants who have a change in income as a result of maternity or pregnancy will be able to receive advice on benefit entitlement and maximising income. Adjustments can also be made to processes to ensure this group is not disadvantaged in any way when accessing or receiving services. For example agreeing more time for provision of information and arranging home visits.

Religion or Belief: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. No particular impact has been identified for this group however by providing an efficient and effective service will ensure that the Council is able to provide all tenants with quality homes and services,

Gender Reassignment: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. No particular impact has been identified for this group however by providing an efficient and effective service will ensure that the Council is able to provide all tenants with quality homes and services,

Sex: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. No particular impact has been identified for this group however by providing an efficient and effective service will ensure that the Council is able to provide all tenants with quality homes and services,

Sexual Orientation: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The Strategy aims to maximise income and prevent tenancies from failing. No particular impact has been identified for this group however by providing an efficient and effective service will ensure that the Council is able to provide all tenants with quality homes and services,

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s): The Housing Income Management Strategy will help to ensure that procedures are consistently applied and those tenant that require support receive it. It will ensure that any action taken is fair, reasonable and proportionate.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): By providing an efficient and effective income management service and making reasonable adjustments wherever necessary to ensure that tenants receiving or accessing services are not disadvantaged in any way.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): Effective income management ensures that the Council can continue to deliver a good housing service and develop and maintain homes.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s): An action plan is in place which details the milestones and actions identified to underpin delivery of the Strategy.
