

## Colchester Borough Homes

### Equality Impact Assessment Form - An Analysis of the Effects on Equality

#### Section 1: Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Name of policy/ decision to be assessed:

#### **Board Members Expenses Scheme**

(See [this page](#) of the CBH website)

1. What is the main purpose of the policy?

- To details what, when and how expenses are paid

2. What main areas or activities does it cover?

- Includes detail and applicable rates of reimbursement on:
  - Travel
  - Subsistence
  - Childcare
  - In lieu of wages
  - Professional subscriptions and fees
  - IT equipment
  - Telephone

3. Are there changes to an existing policy being considered in this assessment? If so what are they?

No

4. Who are the main audience, users or customers who will be affected by the policy?

- Board members

5. What outcomes do you want to achieve from the policy?

- Board members understand what they are entitled to claim for
- Expectations are clearly set out
- Claims are dealt with fairly

6. Are other service areas or partner agencies involved in delivery? If so, please give details below:

- CBH Governance

7. Are you aware of any relevant information, data, surveys or consultations which help us to assess the likely or actual impact of the policy upon customers or staff?

No

8. The 'general duty' states that we must have "due regard" to the need to:

- (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a 'protected characteristic'<sup>1</sup> and those who do not<sup>2</sup>
- (c) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not<sup>3</sup>

Not all policies help us to meet the 'general duty', but most do.

*Where applicable, explain how this policy helps us to meet the 'general duty':*

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<sup>1</sup> The Equality Act's 'protected characteristics' include age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex and sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but not for all aspects of the duty.

<sup>2</sup> This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to: (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it, and (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

<sup>3</sup> This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to (a) tackle prejudice, and (b) promote understanding.

The policy helps us to ‘eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation’ in the following way(s):

- The Expenses Scheme provides clarity for CBH and for Board members. It helps CBH to treat claims fairly and systematically and to avoid ‘arbitrary’ decision-making. The structure in place therefore helps to avoid potential unlawful discrimination.

The policy helps us to ‘advance equality of opportunity...’ in the following way(s):

- None identified

The policy helps us to ‘foster good relations...’ in the following way(s):

- None identified

9. This section helps us to identify any disproportionate impacts. Please indicate in the table below whether the policy is likely to particularly benefit or disadvantage any of the ‘protected characteristics’.

Remember to include reference to any relevant consultation, data or information.

‘Protected characteristic’ group		Positive Impact	Explain how it could particularly benefit the group	Negative Impact	Explain how it could particularly disadvantage the group
Age	Older people (60+)		None identified		None identified
	Younger people (17-25) and children (0-16)		None identified		None identified
Disability	Physical		None identified		None identified
	Sensory				
	Learning				
	Mental health issues				
	Other – <i>specify</i>				

'Protected characteristic' group		Positive Impact	Explain how it could particularly benefit the group	Negative Impact	Explain how it could particularly disadvantage the group
Ethnicity <sup>4</sup>	White		None identified		None identified
	Black				
	Chinese				
	Mixed Ethnic Origin				
	Gypsies/ Travellers				
	Other – <i>please state</i>				
Language	English not first language		None identified	X	Language – the Expenses Scheme is in English so may be difficult to understand for someone whose first language is not English.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Women who are pregnant or have given birth in last 26 weeks		None identified		None identified
Religion or Belief	People with a religious belief (or none)		None identified		None identified
Sex	Men		None identified		None identified
	Women		None identified		None identified
Gender Reassignment <sup>5</sup>	Transgender/ Transsexual <sup>6</sup>		None identified		None identified
Sexual	Bisexual,		None identified		None identified

<sup>4</sup> National Census 2011 categories are: Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Other Asian (Asian or Asian British), African, Caribbean, Other Black (Black or Black British), White and Black African, White and Asian, White and Black Caribbean (Mixed), British, Irish, Other White (White), Chinese, Other (Other Ethnic Group).

<sup>5</sup> The protected characteristic of gender reassignment is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as “a person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.” This is a personal process that may involve medical interventions such as counselling, psychotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery, but does not have to.

<sup>6</sup> It is generally held that people who are *transgender* disguise their features or clothing to resemble their preferred sex, whereas people who are *transsexual* wish to change their body to completely resemble their preferred sex.

'Protected characteristic' group		Positive Impact	Explain how it could particularly benefit the group	Negative Impact	Explain how it could particularly disadvantage the group
Orientation	Heterosexual, Gay or Lesbian				
Marriage and Civil Partnership	People who are married or in a civil partnership		None identified		None identified

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

*Language – the Expenses Scheme is in English so may be difficult to understand for someone whose first language is not English*

- Staff will support any Board members who seek to access translation services for this or other documents.

11. Could the policy discriminate<sup>7</sup> against any 'protected characteristic', either directly or indirectly<sup>8</sup>? No

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<sup>7</sup> The Council has a general duty to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation'. Direct discrimination occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another in a comparable situation because of their 'protected characteristic' whether on grounds of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, ethnicity; religion or belief; sex (gender), sexual orientation, or marriage and civil partnership. Indirect discrimination occurs when an apparently neutral provision or practice would nevertheless disadvantage people on the grounds of their 'protected characteristic'.

<sup>8</sup> If you answer 'yes' to question 11 (above) you will need to complete this section *and* go on to complete Section 2 in order to conduct a full Equality Impact Assessment.

## 12. Summary and findings of Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Findings	Action required
No negative impacts have been identified <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and finish.
<b>Negative impacts have been identified but have been minimised or removed X</b>	<b>Sign off screening and finish.</b>
Negative impacts could not be minimised or removed <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and complete a full impact assessment – Section 2.
There is insufficient evidence to make a judgement. <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign off screening and complete a full impact assessment – Section 2.

13. Name and job title of person completing this form:

- Andrew Harley (Business Partner: Equality & Safeguarding)/ Jo Paget (Business Partner: Governance)

14. Date of completion:

- January 2021

15. Date for update or review of this screening:

- January 2024