

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	Building Safety Resident Engagement Strategy 2024 – Consultation version
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	
<p>According to the Building Safety Act 2022, Southampton City Council must prepare a resident engagement strategy for residents and owners of residential units in high-rise residential buildings. This strategy expands the scope to include all residents and owners of residential units in all Council-owned residential flats and maisonettes. The strategy sets out how the Council will engage residents in building safety decisions in all Council-owned flats and maisonettes.</p> <p>All high-rise residential buildings must have an identifiable accountable person, known as the principal accountable person. A principal accountable person owns or is legally responsible for the repair of the exterior and ensuring that fire and structural safety is managed properly for the whole building. Southampton City Council is the principal accountable person and accountable person for high-rise Council-owned buildings.</p> <p>Southampton City Council owns 15,833 residential council-owned dwellings (2021/22) across 1934 buildings. There are 2108 leasehold properties and 98 Shared Ownership properties. Southampton City Council is responsible for the building safety of these buildings.</p>	
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	
The strategy aims to ensure all residents and owners of residential units in	

Council-owned residential buildings:

- are informed about the building safety information we will provide;
- understand what we may ask them about building safety;
- know how we will contact them and their feedback to influence decisions;
- understand how we will measure and review our engagement methods;
- feel safe in their own home.

The Council will engage with residents in several ways, including letters, email, social media, focus groups and events. According to the Office of National Statistics, there are certain communities which are less likely to access information digitally. Therefore, some residents may be excluded from information or engagement methods carried out digitally. This includes information posted on the Council website or social media. The Council will make sure to engage with residents in various forms, including non-digitally.

Some residents may require specific forms of communication, which can be requested from Council officers. Residents can change information on the website into different formats like an accessible PDF or large. They can contact the building safety team or visit our accessibility page on the website for more information.

Building safety: [buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk) or

Visit our accessibility page: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/accessibility/>

#### **Potential Positive Impacts**

The aim of the strategy is for residents and owners of residential units in Council-owned housing to be better informed about building safety measures. They will also know how to suggest changes and make improvements. Understanding the building safety measures, and how to improve them will help improve the health and wellbeing of tenants and community safety.

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Matthew Luik
<b>Date</b>	08/02/2024
<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Jamie Brenchley
<b>Date</b>	16/02/2024

## Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>According to the Office for National Statistics, since 2011 adults over the age of 65 years have consistently made up the largest proportion of the adult internet non-users. Therefore, some tenants may find it difficult to access information about building safety decisions which is shared online or through social media posts. They may also be unable to access the strategy document online.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out other forms of communication which will also be used to engage with tenants. This includes letters, surveys by posts, focus group meetings, events, block notice boards and engagement with officers of the Council. Residents can request specific forms of communication which suits them best (such as large format) from officers of the Council. The Council's website and the strategy explain how residents can access information in alternative formats. Residents can change information on the website into different formats, like an accessible PDF, by contacting <b>Building safety:</b> <a href="mailto:buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk">buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk</a> or</p> <p><b>Visit our accessibility page:</b> <a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/accessibility/">https://www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/accessibility/</a></p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		Information on the website can also be translated into different languages. The strategy can also be provided as a paper copy if requested.
<b>Disability</b>	Some forms of communication used to share building safety information may be difficult for residents with a disability to access. According to the Office for National Statistics, across all age groups, disabled adults make up a large proportion of adult internet non-users. In 2017, 56% of adult internet non-users were disabled. The strategy is published online, so it may be difficult for some residents to access it.	There will be various forms of communication used to share building safety information and engage with residents with a disability. This includes non-digital forms such as letters, papers surveys, meetings, or events. Residents can request specific forms of communication which suit them best (such as easy ready or braille) from officers of the Council. The Council's website and the strategy explain how residents can access information in alternative formats. Residents can change information on the website into different formats, like an accessible PDF or large print. Information on the website can also be translated into different languages. The strategy can also be provided as a paper copy if requested. Contact <b>Building safety:</b>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		<a href="mailto:buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk">buildingsafety@southampton.gov.uk</a> or Visit our accessibility page: <a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/accessibility/">https://www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/accessibility/</a>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their gender reassignment.	N/A
<b>Care Experienced</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their care experience.	N/A
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their marriage or civil partnership status.	N/A
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their pregnancy and maternity.	N/A
<b>Race</b>	For some tenants, English may not be their first language. Therefore, they may not understand building safety information, or be able to engage easily with building safety decisions. Some tenants may not be able to read the strategy.	Residents can request communication and the strategy in a different language from the Council. They can request this from Council officers. Information on the Council's website (including the strategy) can also be translated using various tools. The Council's website and strategy explains which tools can be used to translate information on a website: <a href="#">Translating our webpages (southampton.gov.uk)</a>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their religion or belief.	N/A
<b>Sex</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their sex.	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	None of the changes proposed should have any impact on a person because of their sexual orientation.	N/A
<b>Community Safety</b>	This strategy should provide a positive impact on community safety. This is because it sets out how the Council and residents will engage to improve building safety.	N/A
<b>Poverty</b>	According to the Office for National Statistics, among working-age adults, a higher proportion of the economically inactive are internet non-users than those with economic activities. Moreover, the percentage of households with an internet connection increases with income. Therefore, it may be challenging for some people who have less income to access the building safety information and the strategy digitally.	The strategy sets out other forms of communication which will also be used to engage with tenants. This includes letters, surveys by posts, focus group meetings, events, block notice boards and engagement with officers of the Council. The strategy also sets out how a resident can also request a specific form of communication. Tenants will also be given the option of having a paper copy of the strategy.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	The strategy focuses on improving engagement with residents about building safety. The Council is determined to make sure that residents are informed about building safety and know how to raise concerns about building safety. Therefore, the strategy should have a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents.	N/A

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>	No other significant impact was identified.	N/A

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