

## **EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **1. What is the name of the policy?**

Stannah Procurement for Housing Framework Agreement

(sits within the existing Housing Assistance Policy 2022)

### **2. Briefly describe the aims of the policy**

The Council's Housing and Property Services (Property Assets) Department previously entered into a Framework agreement with Stannah Lift Services on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for a period of 4 years.

The Private Sector Grants Team were able to use the Call-Off Contract for the supply and installation of stairlifts for residents in the private sector who met the eligibility criteria for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

The existing Framework Agreement expired on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and is not likely to be renewed by Property Services.

The aim of the policy is for the Private Sector Grants Team to enter into its own new Framework Agreement to enable the Council to continue to provide an efficient and effective Disabled Facilities Grants Service and to ensure:

- we assist as many disabled, elderly, infirm and vulnerable residents as possible;
- we provide an efficient and effective service by reducing paperwork and unnecessary bureaucracy and by improving processing times;
- we get value for money

### **3. Are the aims consistent with the Council's Equalities Policy? On what basis?**

Yes – the Housing Assistance Policy sets out the Council's aims and objectives to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) through Central Government funding via Essex County Council.

DFGs provide essential financial assistance to help disabled residents live safely in their own homes for as long as they can or wish to. One of the most common risks to the elderly, infirm or disabled people is the risk associated with trips, slips and falls inside the home, with the risk of an accident associated with the falls on stairs being the most significant in terms of the potential harm outcomes associated with this.

Approval of this Procurement for Housing Framework Agreement between Epping Forest District Council and Stannah Lift Services allows us to cut down on unnecessary bureaucracy thereby enabling us to provide a more efficient and effective service delivery to those most in need of assistance.

4. Is there any evidence to suggest that this policy could have an adverse impact on some groups of people? Use the table to tick:

(a) where you think the policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within the target groups.

(b) where you think the policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups i.e. it could disadvantage them

	Insufficient data	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Reason e.g. access / take-up
<b>Gender reassignment</b>				
<b>Race</b>				
<b>Disability</b>		<b>X</b>		One of the most common risks to disabled, elderly and infirm people is the risk of trips, slips and falls inside the home. Falls on stairs pose a greater risk in terms of potential harm outcomes to victims. Early intervention measures such as stairlifts help minimise such risks.
<b>Age</b>		<b>X</b>		The majority of requests for DFGs for stairlifts are for the elderly (aged 65 years or over). Early intervention measure such as the provision of stairlifts help retain independence for the elderly and can lead to them being able to remain living at home for longer.
<b>Religion and Belief</b>				
<b>Sexual orientation</b>				
<b>Sex</b>				
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>				
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>				

5. If, in your judgement, the proposed policy does have an adverse impact, can that impact be justified? How do you intend to deal with that impact or lessen that impact?

N/A
-----

**6. To comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, the Council must have due regard to the need to:**

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation**
- **Advance equality of opportunity between different groups**
- **Foster good relations between different groups**

**Show how your policy meets the above requirements.**

<p>Epping Forest District Council ("the Council"), in its role as a local housing authority, has a statutory duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to qualifying applicants under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (the Act).</p>
---

<p>This Framework Agreement does not discriminate against any of the groups above and may benefit any resident who meets the eligibility of a Disabled Facilities Grant in accordance with the Act.</p>
---

**Name of manager undertaking the assessment:** Sandra Wilson

**Service Area:** Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing & Grants

**Date completed:** 01 August 2022

**Requirement for a formal Equalities Impact Assessment:** YES / NO

**If YES, what is your timetable for completing this?:** N/A

**Who else will you need to be working with to do this work e.g. partners, contractors etc?:**