

Equality Impact Assessment

Lead Officer:-	Perry DeSouza
Decision Maker(s):-	Cabinet & Council
Name and type of document	Neighbourhood Management Policy 2022 v1
Type of decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Approval for public consultation; andii. Subsequent adoption and implementation of the policy
Date of decision	Draft 'Neighborhood Management Policy' to be approved by cabinet for public consultation by 6 June 2022.

Aims of the decision

- Objectives
- Intended outcomes
- Key actions
- Who and how many will be affected?

1. Aims

The aim is that the draft Neighbourhood Management policy be approved by Cabinet for further consultation with service users and stakeholders. It is a requirement of the Neighbourhood and Community Standard of the Regulator of Social Housing that each social housing landlord have in place such a policy. When the public consultation has concluded, and providing that no major amendments are required, the document should be approved for use.

The Social Housing White Paper, A Charter for Social Housing Residents sets out Government expectation that social housing landlords keep their properties and the neighbourhoods these are in well maintained and managed. The vision of the policy is for our neighbourhoods and properties to be safe, secure, and well looked after with green and communal areas with vibrant, diverse communities where our residents want to live.

By implementing this policy, Dover District Council (DDC) will be providing clear guidance to tenants, leaseholders, and staff of the expected standards by which housing management of its neighbourhoods and estates will be conducted.

2. Key actions / objectives

The aims of the policy are:

- Play a key role in keeping Council estates and communal areas clean, safe, well maintained and attractive places to live.
- Work in partnership with tenants, key local partners, contractors and other public bodies to achieve our objectives
- Set clear service standards for the maintenance and management of estates and communal areas
- React promptly to reports of problems and where necessary enforce the terms of tenancy agreement to manage the land the Council owns
- Put customers at the heart of our services by encouraging active customer involvement and consultation on all aspects of neighbourhood management

3. Who and how many will be affected?

Dover District Council currently oversees the management of 4,896 properties across the District and the policy will impact upon tenants and leaseholders with a diverse range of backgrounds.

It is intended the policy have a positive impact for both tenants and leaseholders by explaining how and what DDC will do to maintain, repair, and improve communal areas. The policy also refers to how DDC will engage with tenants.

<p>Information and Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise research and information that you used to prepare your proposals / preferred options • What data did you use to research your proposals? • List anything you found that will affect people with protected characteristics. 	<p>The Neighbourhood and Community Standard sets expectations for registered providers of social housing to keep the neighbourhood and communal areas associated with the homes they own clean and safe, co-operate with relevant partners to promote wellbeing of the local area, and help prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The proposals in the Social Housing White Paper around transparency emphasised the need for this document to be clear to both tenants and staff alike so that both could take guidance from.</p> <p>A Tenant Satisfaction Survey was conducted in June 2021, and the results and data from that survey was also used as a base in the development of the policy. Information from the TSS report has been used or referenced to in the proposed policy.</p> <p>Identified impacts</p> <p>In the completion of this document, a potential negative impact has been identified in relation to users of mobility scooters who store and/or charge their mobility scooters in areas that we have not given permission to them to use.</p> <p>Residents are already prohibited from storing their mobility scooters in shared areas (both internal and external) in the Tenancy Agreement.</p> <p>The potential negative impact identified relates to the policy statement that the Council may take appropriate enforcement action against residents who are in breach of this, which includes but not limited to, removing the item with notice, or injunctive proceedings.</p> <p>In circumstances where the storage and or charging of a mobility scooter poses a serious fire and safety risk the Council will take enforcement action but to mitigate the potential negative impact this may have will take the actions identified below.</p> <p>No further negative impact has been identified in the development of this policy.</p>
<p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has there been any specific consultation done? • What were the consultation results? • Did the consultation analysis show any difference for people with protected characteristics? • What conclusions did you draw from the consultation? 	<p>A Tenant Satisfaction Survey was conducted in June 2021 which provided data and information used to inform the proposed policy.</p> <p>Preliminary internal consultation has taken place throughout the development of the proposed policy with teams who carry out tasks mentioned in the document to understand what roles they play in the management and maintenance of our neighbourhood communal areas, and so that such tasks were documented accurately and appropriately in the policy.</p> <p>The report for cabinet is for agreement to go out to formal public consultation with current Council tenants and leaseholders. A Consultation Plan has been drafted and attached to the Cabinet report which sets out how the Council will conduct the consultation and how the results and feedback will be fed back.</p> <p>Once agreed, there will be a 6-week from 1 July to 15 August 2022. Details of the consultation can be found in the Consultation Plan (Appendix 3).</p> <p>If results received from the consultation require major amendments to the proposed policy, this draft EIA will be reviewed and amended as necessary following the end of the consultation period.</p>

Assessing if the decision is likely to be relevant to the three aims of the Equality Duty.

Aim	Relevance Yes / No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation	Yes
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.	Yes
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.	Yes

If you have decided that this decision is relevant to the three aims of the Equality Duty, use the section below to show how it is relevant and what the impact will be.

Protected Characteristic	Relevance High/Medium/Low	Impact of the decision Positive / Neutral / Negative	Mitigation If you have found negative impact, outline the measures you intend to take to mitigate it.
Age	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Disability	High	Negative	We will engage with residents where they are in breach of the policy and their tenancy agreement. Before any enforcement action is taken, we will conduct an Individual Equality Impact Assessment for residents who need to use mobility scooters.
Gender reassignment	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Gender	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Race	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Religion, Belief or Lack of Belief	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.
Sexual Orientation	Low	Neutral	None required. No negative impacts have been identified in the research and development of this policy.

This Equality Impact Assessment must attach to any report throughout the decision-making process, to allow the final decision makers to have Due Regard.