

Community and Equality Impact Assessment: Property Licensing Project 2024

As an authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy	Private Rented Property Licensing
Lead Officer	Felicia Johnston
Contact Details	Felicia.Johnston@lbbd.gov.uk

<p>Why is this service or policy development/review needed?</p> <p>The Private Rented Sector (PRS) is the fastest-growing tenure in Barking & Dagenham, it has increased by over a third since 2011. Fueled by escalating house prices and an acute lack of social housing, the sector now accounts for 30% of properties in the borough, becoming a long-term housing solution for many of our most deprived and vulnerable residents. Alongside this growth, we have seen an acute rise in insecure short-term tenancies, poor property conditions and persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the PRS.</p> <p>Over the past decade, we have implemented a series of discretionary property licensing schemes for 5-year terms to increase our regulation of the PRS and tackle the prevalence of these issues. These time-bound interventions have been run in conjunction with the national mandatory Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing scheme for homes let to 5 or more unrelated sharers.</p> <p>In September 2014, we adopted the first of two such schemes borough-wide: a selective licensing scheme focused on reducing ASB in homes let to single households or two unrelated sharers, and an additional HMO licensing scheme aimed at improving the management of small HMOs not covered by the mandatory HMO scheme. Both initiatives had positive outcomes, including a notable reduction in PRS-related ASB, despite rates accelerating in other tenures. Additionally, they enhanced our intelligence on the PRS, enabling us to identify other problems necessitating intervention.</p> <p>By the end of the schemes, addressing high levels of deprivation and supporting the surge in migration to the PRS emerged as our top priority areas of concern. A replacement borough-wide selective licensing scheme was introduced in September 2019 to help us address both issues. However, we did not renew the additional HMO licensing scheme.</p> <p>Given its proven impact, property licensing remains a crucial tool for supporting our broader efforts to elevate standards within the PRS and fulfilling our strategic objective of “ensuring the provision of quality housing and preventing homelessness” for our residents as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2023-26.</p>
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1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
Look at what you know. What does your research tell you?

Please state which data sources you have used for your research in your answer below

Consider:

- National & local data sets
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics’. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.
- It is Council policy to consider the impact services and policy developments could have on residents who are socio-economically disadvantaged. There is space to consider the impact below.

Demographics Impacted

The general impact of property licensing is formalising the lightly regulated private rented sector (PRS) by imposing a framework to enforce obligations on landlords and licence holders. It should continue to lead towards greater quality in our borough’s accommodation and greater stability in the community for all groups. The scheme is proposed for all wards, across three designations. Although the mechanism for monitoring and control is through private rented properties, the benefits are intended to be felt by all residents across all the groups in the borough. These demographics and protected characteristics can be summarised as follows:

Age

The borough has the highest proportion (26.1%) of residents aged under 16 in England and Wales. The over 65 population accounts for one of the smallest percentages (8.7%) of population in England and Wales (Census, 2021).

Disability

Barking and Dagenham has the highest proportion (29.8%) of households where at least one person identified as disabled (Census, 2021) with approximately 4,834 of our residents claiming disability allowance (DWP Stat-Xplore, 2023).

Sex

51.3% of the borough’s residents are female, and 48.7% are male (Census, 2021).

Gender Reassignment

We do not hold any local data on the Trans population in the designation area or the borough.

Pregnancy and Maternity Status

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We do not hold any local data on the pregnancy and maternity status in the designations or the borough as a whole.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

42.8% of the population aged 16 and above are married or in a registered civil partnership (Census, 2021). 41.8% are single and never married (Census, 2021).

Ethnicity

The ethnic diversity of the borough is 44.9% White; 25.9% Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh; 21.4% Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, or African residents; 4.3% are from multiple or mixed ethnic groups; and 3.6% are from any other ethnic group (Census, 2021).

Religion or Belief

54.4% of the population identify as Christian, 24.4% identify as Muslim, and 18.8% identify with no religion (Census, 2021).

Sexual Orientation

Approximately 4,990 people aged 16 years and over in Barking and Dagenham are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other (LGB+) (Census, 2021).

The private rented sector represents an important element of housing choice across all demographics, providing accommodation for the homeless as well as for young and middle-income households and new migrants. In Barking and Dagenham, the percentage of private renting increased from 17.7% in 2011 to 24.2% in 2021 (ONS, 2023). During the same period, the percentage across England increased from 16.8% to 20.5%. The rate of social renting in Barking and Dagenham fell from 33.7% to 31.5%, while the rate of home ownership decreased from 46.4% to 42.4% (ONS, 2023). Our current estimate is that the borough is 30.4% private rented accommodation meaning that there has already been a huge increase from the 2021 figures. The impact of the private rented property licensing scheme, or lack of a scheme, across all groups will be significant.

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?

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Local communities in general	X				
Age	X			Our borough continues to become an increasingly young community (Census, 2021). The private rented sector and licensing scheme has a large positive impact on this demographic, especially concerning property conditions and landlord exploitation.	
Disability	X			The 2019 Annual Population Survey detailed that disabled people are only slightly less likely to live in private rented accommodation than their non-disabled counterparts. While the scheme does not enforce accessibility, disabled people are also disproportionately likely to face discrimination in the private rented sector. As such, licensing will have a positive effect on these individuals and households in the sector through ensuring property standards that do not cause or exacerbate pre-existing health conditions and preventing discrimination from landlords.	
Gender reassignment	X			There is no evidence on transgender representation in the private rented sector, however, transgender people are disproportionately likely to face discrimination in the private rented sector. A recent study found that 25% of trans respondents had been discriminated against because of their gender identity by a landlord or letting agent (HQN, 2022). As such, licensing will have a positive effect on these individuals and households in the sector by preventing discrimination from landlords and letting agents.	
Marriage and civil partnership	X			There is no evidence directly linking benefits to this group in the private rented sector over that for the total population. However, a recent survey found that LGBTQ+ respondents were 48% more likely to have lived in unsuitable housing, 19% more likely to have struggled with repairs, and 17% more likely to have experienced damp and mould (Generation Rent, 2022). One particular respondent cited that their landlord “refused to acknowledge or respond to any	

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			communications from [their] same-sex partner and co-tenant” (Generation Rent, 2022). As such, licensing will have a positive effect on these individuals and households in the sector by preventing discrimination from landlords and letting agents.	
Pregnancy and maternity	X		A recent report by Shelter (2020), found that households containing children were one of the worst hit groups of renters in the UK and were disproportionately more likely to encounter problems when privately renting. Therefore, selective licensing will provide expectant and new mothers with greater protection from ‘no fault’ evictions and should encourage more reporting of difficulties without fear of retribution.	
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)	X		Multiple charities have highlighted that a lack of regulation in the private rented sector, alongside the Right to Rent legislation, has left the door open for racial discrimination in the sector (BBC, 2023). Therefore, a selective licensing scheme enhances the regulation and means we have more powers to protect individuals and families from discrimination on the basis of race. Moreover, as the private rented sector is the only accessible housing tenure for new communities to the borough, various ethnic groups as well as travellers and new migrants will be positively affected. Our analysis shows that recent migrants are subject to the poorer conditions addressed by this scheme.	
Religion or belief	X		Given that the proportion of Muslims in the borough is increasing and the borough has a higher proportion of Muslims compared to London and England, residents from some religious backgrounds may be disproportionately likely to benefit from the selective licensing scheme proposal.	
Sex	X		There is no indication that one gender is overrepresented across the private rented sector. However, a report by Shelter (2020) found that women are one of the worst hit groups of renters in the UK and were disproportionately more likely to	

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				<p>encounter problems when privately renting. Therefore, women should benefit from the proposed scheme.</p>	
Sexual orientation	X			<p>There is no evidence on sexual orientation representation in the private rented sector, however, a recent study found that 13% of LGBTQ+ respondents had been discriminated against, because of their gender identity, by a landlord or letting agent (HQN, 2022). As such, licensing will have a positive effect on these individuals and households in the sector by preventing discrimination from landlords and letting agents.</p>	
Socio-economic Disadvantage	X			<p>By raising property standards across the private rented sector, selective licensing will have an overall positive impact on tackling the socio-economic inequalities faced by the Borough. Being one of the most deprived boroughs, improved property conditions will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the Borough's most deprived and vulnerable tenants.</p> <p>A recent report into the effectiveness of selective licensing found no evidence of licence fees being passed onto tenants. Therefore, there is no material risk of the scheme having an adverse financial impact on the Borough's more deprived and vulnerable tenants.</p>	
Any community issues identified for this location?	X			<p>The community issues targeted in the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-social behaviour - Poor property conditions - High levels of deprivation 	

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

We pulled together a comprehensive communication strategy, with a targeted plan for reaching all stakeholders to ensure that we complied with all statutory obligations. We used a variety of consultation methods to make it both accessible and engaging. Throughout the consultation, we tracked the demographic of respondents to ensure that all groups were adequately reached. We partnered with community organisations to promote the consultation. All residents had the chance to participate in the survey and any equality concerns raised were reflected in our proposals.

Public Consultation

The public consultation took place over a 10-week period from 16th February 2024 to 26th April 2024. An online survey was used via One Borough Voice, the Council's survey and outreach platform, was used as the principal method of consultation, with paper copies of the questionnaire and a phone line available for those who preferred to complete the survey in that manner. A consultation email address was also set up for interested parties to provide written comments and ask any questions. These comments have also been analysed and included in the appendices.

Throughout the consultation, the response rate and demographic profile of respondents was periodically reviewed. Originally, the landlord respondents were much higher so the Council responded by posting letters to all private rented homes and pop up stalls were organised for Barking Market and Dagenham Heathway to increase the number of tenant and resident respondents.

Communication Channels

The council used a wide range of communication channels to promote the consultation and make stakeholders aware of the proposals.

Activities to engage all stakeholder groups, inside and outside the borough, and raise their awareness included:

- Adding a banner to the top of the council website on all pages from 18th April to 26th April 2024.
- Issuing press releases on 16th February and 19th April 2024
- Using the council's social media:
 - o 18 X (Twitter) posts with a total of 5.5k impressions, 1.4% engagement rate, 8 shares, and 8 likes
 - o 26 Facebook posts, with a total of 61k people reached, 62.2k impressions, 119 clicks, 14 shares, and 29 likes
- Placing adverts in local and neighbouring borough newspapers:
 - o Barking and Dagenham Post – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - o Newham Recorder – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - o Ilford Recorder – 14th March and 18th April 2024

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If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

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- Romford Recorder – 15th March and 19th April 2024
- Digital advertising on local newspaper websites from Thursday 14th March to Friday 26th April 2024 which resulted in 144,792 impressions, 525 clicks, and a 0.44% click through rate
- Running a digital advertising campaign from 23rd February 2024 to 26th April 2024 which resulted in 3,663,392 impressions, 8,814 clicks to the consultation page with a cost per click of 0.68p, which is a good figure considering the landlord strategy. The digital campaign placed adverts on websites and social media pages related to Barking and Dagenham and the private rented sector, including:
 - rightmove.co.uk
 - gumtree.com
 - zoopla.co.uk
 - propertytorenovate.co.uk
 - homebuilding.co.uk
 - theprimarymarket.com
 - facebook.com
 - Instagram.com
 - dailymail.co.uk
 - investing.com
 - metro.co.uk

Activities to reach out to Barking and Dagenham tenants and residents included:

- Letter drop to 18,523 private rented homes on 15th April 2024, which included information about the public meetings being held
- Leaflet drop to a random selection of 4,800 houses on 23rd and 24th April 2024
- The consultation was included as an item in emails sent to resident mailing lists on:
 - 28th February 2024 – 37,944 recipients, 12,440 opens, 78 clicks
 - 13th March 2024 – 38,191 recipients, 13,216 opens, 72 clicks
 - 27th March 2024 – 41,554 recipients, 12,513 opens
 - 10th April 2024 – 38,518 recipients, 14,679 opens, 45 clicks
 - 24th April 2024 – 38,635 recipients, 10,784 opens, 99 clicks
- Adverts were added to outdoor digital boards across the borough. The campaign on the outdoor digital boards ran from 26th February to 26th April 2024
- Text message sent to 20,000 residents via the GP text messaging service on 23rd April 2024
- Advertising posters placed in all 11 Community Hubs in the borough throughout the duration of the consultation
- Four drop-in sessions per week from 19th April 2024 to 26th April 2024 at Whalebone Lane Community Hub and Dagenham Library Community Hub
- Local authority officers handing out business cards during all visits during the period of the consultation
- Pop up stalls in Barking Market on 4th April and 25th April and on Dagenham Heathway on 10th April 2024.
- Officers handing out consultation business cards outside Ripple Road Mosque on 26th April 2024

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

- Placing adverts in local and neighbouring borough newspapers:
 - Barking and Dagenham Post – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - Newham Recorder – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - Ilford Recorder – 14th March and 18th April 2024
 - Romford Recorder – 15th March and 19th April 2024

Activities to reach out to landlords included:

- An email to 10,806 licence holders on 28th February 2024 to inform them about the consultation and NRLA landlord forum session we were presenting at on
- The consultation was included on the landlord newsletter sent to 10,814 licence holders on 28th March 2024
- An email to 10,823 licence holders on 12th April 2024 to inform them about the consultation
- A final chance email to 10,830 licence holders on 23rd April 2024 to inform them about the consultation
- Officers handing out consultation business cards outside Ripple Road Mosque on 26th April 2024
- A digital campaign on the London Property Licensing website. London Property Licensing is the leading website for informing private landlords in the UK. The campaign started on 26th February 2024 and ran until 26th April 2024. the campaign included:
 - A 300x400 pixel banner advert was placed on the home page and sixteen London borough pages from 27th February 2024 to 26th April 2024. Anyone clicking on the advert was taken directly to the council's licensing consultation webpage.
 - From 27th February to 26th April 2024, high profile scheme promotion was achieved by inserting a banner headline which remained one of the top three rotating landscape images at the top of the LPL home page. The banner headline had a hyperlink to the LPL Barking & Dagenham property licensing consultation webpage.
 - On 26th February 2024, the LPL Barking & Dagenham webpage was updated with information about the licensing consultation and a direct link to the council's consultation webpage in the orange 'At a Glance box' to encourage people to find out more and take part in the consultation.
 - From 27th February to 26th April 2024, a LBBD licensing consultation listing was displayed on the LPL website and promoted on the home page, the licensing consultations page, and on sixteen borough pages. The listing summarised the purpose of the consultation and explained how people could take part.
 - The consultation webpage promoted consultation events taking place on 12th and 14th March and 3rd and 5th April 2024.
 - A news article about the additional and selection licensing consultation was published on 3rd March 2024 and promoted via social media and the LPL newsletter.
 - A regular newsletter is sent out to people who have requested updates on housing regulation and property licensing schemes. The newsletter is widely distributed to landlords, letting agents, organisations, local authority officers and government officials. The consultation was promoted in newsletters distributed on 4th March and 8th April 2024 with each newsletter sent to between 3,729 and 3,742 people. The newsletters also displayed the LBBD banner advert with a direct link to the consultation page on the council's website.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

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- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

- Tweets about the licensing consultation were published on the LPL X (Twitter) feed on average every 9-11 days, timed to cover mid-week and weekends with a variety of morning, afternoon and evening posts between 04/03/2024 and 26/04/2024. During this period, the LPL Twitter feed had over 2,300 followers which generates impressions, likes and retweets.
- On 5th March and 23rd April 2024, posts about the licensing consultation were published on the LPL LinkedIn and LPL Facebook pages.
- Running a digital advertising campaign from 23rd February 2024 to 26th April 2024 which resulted in 3,663,392 impressions, 8,814 clicks to the consultation page with a cost per click of 0.68p, which is a good figure considering the landlord strategy. The digital campaign placed adverts on websites and social media pages related to Barking and Dagenham and the private rented sector, including:
 - rightmove.co.uk
 - gumtree.com
 - zoopla.co.uk
 - propertytorenovate.co.uk
 - homebuilding.co.uk
 - theprimarymarket.com
 - facebook.com
 - Instagram.com
 - dailymail.co.uk
 - investing.com
 - metro.co.uk

Activities to reach landlords outside the borough included:

- Placing adverts in local and neighbouring borough newspapers:
 - Barking and Dagenham Post – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - Newham Recorder – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - Ilford Recorder – 14th March and 18th April 2024
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- A digital campaign on the London Property Licensing website. London Property Licensing is the leading website for informing private landlords in the UK. The campaign started on 26th February 2024 and ran until 26th April 2024. the campaign included:
 - A 300x400 pixel banner advert was placed on the home page and sixteen London borough pages from 27th February 2024 to 26th April 2024. Anyone clicking on the advert was taken directly to the council's licensing consultation webpage.
 - From 27th February to 26th April 2024, high profile scheme promotion was achieved by inserting a banner headline which remained one of the top three rotating landscape images at the top of the LPL home page. The banner headline had a hyperlink to the LPL Barking & Dagenham property licensing consultation webpage.
 - On 26th February 2024, the LPL Barking & Dagenham webpage was updated with information about the licensing consultation and a direct link to the council's consultation webpage in the orange 'At a Glance box' to encourage people to find out more and take part in the consultation.

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Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

- From 27th February to 26th April 2024, a LBBB licensing consultation listing was displayed on the LPL website and promoted on the home page, the licensing consultations page, and on sixteen borough pages. The listing summarised the purpose of the consultation and explained how people could take part.
- The consultation webpage promoted consultation events taking place on 12th and 14th March and 3rd and 5th April 2024.
- A news article about the additional and selection licensing consultation was published on 3rd March 2024 and promoted via social media and the LPL newsletter.
- A regular newsletter is sent out to people who have requested updates on housing regulation and property licensing schemes. The newsletter is widely distributed to landlords, letting agents, organisations, local authority officers and government officials. The consultation was promoted in newsletters distributed on 4th March and 8th April 2024 with each newsletter sent to between 3,729 and 3,742 people. The newsletters also displayed the LBBB banner advert with a direct link to the consultation page on the council's website.
- Tweets about the licensing consultation were published on the LPL X (Twitter) feed on average every 9-11 days, timed to cover mid-week and weekends with a variety of morning, afternoon and evening posts between 04/03/2024 and 26/04/2024. During this period, the LPL Twitter feed had over 2,300 followers which generates impressions, likes and retweets.
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 - zoopla.co.uk
 - propertytorenovate.co.uk
 - homebuilding.co.uk
 - theprimarymarket.com
 - facebook.com
 - Instagram.com
 - dailymail.co.uk
 - investing.com
 - metro.co.uk

Activities to make digitally excluded and vulnerable stakeholders aware of the consultation included:

- Pop up stalls in Barking Market on 4th April and 25th April and on Dagenham Heathway on 10th April 2024.
- Placing adverts in local and neighbouring borough newspapers:
 - Barking and Dagenham Post – 13th March and 17th April 2024
 - Newham Recorder – 13th March and 17th April 2024

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- Ilford Recorder – 14th March and 18th April 2024
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- Letter drop to 18,523 private rented homes on 15th April 2024, which included information about the public meetings being held
- Leaflet drop to a random selection of 4,800 houses on 23rd and 24th April 2024
- Local authority officers handing out business cards during all visits across the period of the consultation
- Adverts were added to outdoor digital boards across the borough. The campaign on the outdoor digital boards ran from 26th February to 26th April 2024
- Adverts placed in all 11 Community Hubs in the borough throughout the duration of the consultation
- Four drop-in sessions per week from 19th April 2024 to 26th April 2024 at Whalebone Lane Community Hub and Dagenham Library Community Hub
- Officers handing out consultation business cards outside Ripple Road Mosque on 26th April 2024

Activities to make stakeholders within the council aware of the consultation included:

- Adding a banner to the top of the council website on all pages from 18th April to 26th April 2024
- Council staff laptop screensaver from 28th March to 26th April 2024
- The Leaders briefing on 1st March 2024
- CEO's briefing to all staff on 1st March 2024
- Council staff newsletter on 28th February, 10th April and 24th April 2024
- Using the council's social media:
 - 18 X (Twitter) posts with a total of 5.5k impressions, 1.4% engagement rate, 8 shares, and 8 likes
 - 26 Facebook posts, with a total of 61k people reached, 62.2k impressions, 119 clicks, 14 shares, and 29 likes

Activities to make other stakeholders outside the borough aware of the consultation included:

- Email to all London borough CEOs on 16th April 2024
- Email to all London Private Sector Housing team leaders on 25th March 2024, notifying them of the consultation

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented? <i>These actions should be developed using the information gathered in Section 1 and 2 and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.</i>		
Action	By when?	By who?
Project manager to review this document following closure of the consultation should results make it warranted.	April 2024	Felicia Johnston
Project manager to review this document following confirmation/updated from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the designation.	Late 2024	Felicia Johnston

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or appropriate committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the wider community.

Take some time to summarise your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Strategy Team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact
<p>The evidence from the existing scheme introduced in 2019 along with our recent borough analysis and stakeholder discussions, demonstrates the overall impact is relevant to all equality groups in Barking and Dagenham and that the overall impact is positive.</p> <p>Since 2017, we have seen a great improvement in the private rented sector (PRS) including a reduction in ASB. However, evidence indicates that there is still widespread deprivation and poor property conditions. Additionally, both rates of single and multiple ASB incidents in the PRS are disproportionately higher than the borough average for all tenures. Without a new scheme, this problem is likely to worsen, given that the size of the PRS in the borough is increasing.</p> <p>Residents of the borough will be positively impacted by a new designation as they benefit from the requirements placed on landlords to provide proper arrangements and conditions. The introduction of a new scheme will continue to help improve standards within the PRS in relation to health and safety including damp and mould, property conditions, and fire safety through</p>

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Implications/ Customer Impact

compliance and condition audits. It will allow us to identify those properties that are suffering from disrepair, overcrowding, and any other concerns and take the appropriate enforcement action.

It will allow the council to target criminal landlords who do not licence their properties and act with criminal intent. We will work with internal departments to ensure public money is protected in respect of fraudulent housing benefit claims and unpaid council tax on HMOs.

It will help to prevent the exploitation of tenants ensuring tenancy support is provided in respect of tenancy agreements, rent deposit protection from illegal eviction and harassment.

It will support the engagement between internal departments, such as Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Housing Benefits, and Council Tax.

The introduction of the new scheme will allow residents to continue to make informed choices about the property they occupy by first checking the property is register on the private rented property licence register published on the council website.

The key impacts of the new scheme can be summarised as:

- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Reducing poor property conditions
- Reducing high levels of deprivation

The positive impacts of the new scheme will be wide-reaching, improving the social and economic conditions of the borough and tackling non-compliant landlords and supporting our good landlords.

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Divisional Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Julia Kanji	Head of Regulatory Services	
Gary Jones	Operational Director	