



your support
choice

Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool

Toolkit produced by: Public Health
Toolkit version: 1.2
HIA version: 1.0
Date HIA completed: 31st January 2017

***Health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.
(modified by M. Birley (2013) from World Health Organisation's definition – 1948)***

Title of policy, programme or project ("activity") to be assessed:

Compulsory Purchase of individual empty properties within Blackburn with Darwen Borough

What is the activity about? What is the context outlined for the activity? (e.g. policy context, history, background)

Tackling empty properties supports the key priorities of the council's corporate plan and the Empty Property Strategy. Empty properties in the borough can have a negative environmental impact on neighbourhoods in addition to being a wasted housing resource. At neighbourhood level, empty properties attract fly-tipping, crime, arson and nuisance. It is a priority to tackle these problems by agreement or enforcement as part of the wider effort to improve neighbourhoods and preventing blight.

Does this activity have the potential to impact on health? Explain

(please consult appropriate Public Health colleague if you are unsure or require further information)

Bringing empty properties back into use through the Empty Property Strategy enables the authority to ensure the removal of category 1 and 2 hazards from properties prior to occupation as defined by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System 2004. This will have a positive impact upon health for the residents by contributing to the improvement of housing conditions in the Borough.

Re-occupation of these empty properties will also deter fly-tipping, reduce crime, arson and nuisance which contribute to the improvement of health and safety in homes and neighbourhoods.

Whilst no negative impacts have been identified for the compulsory purchase of empty properties, we will continue to complete the full HIA screening as the reasons surrounding the need for a Compulsory purchase Order (CPO) may vary between each individual property. As a result of this it would be wise to further explore this activity to ensure that all aspects have been considered.

****If no health impacts are identified then the screening does not need to continue, but please ensure that this has been discussed with the appropriate Public Health colleague prior to discontinuation****

Does this activity relate to / impact on any of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy objectives?

- Best start for children and young people**
- Health & Work**
- Safe & healthy homes & neighbourhoods**
- Promoting health and supporting people when they are unwell**
- Older people's independence and social inclusion**

Does the activity concern any of the following determinants?	
Lifestyle	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Physical environment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Social / economic environment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify	

What are the potential positive impacts?
<p>Bringing this long term empty property back into use enables the authority to ensure the removal of category 1 and 2 hazards from the property prior to re-occupation as defined by the Housing health and Safety Rating System 2004. This will have a positive impact upon health for the residents by contributing to the improvement of housing conditions in the Borough.</p> <p>Re-occupation of this empty property will also deter fly-tipping, reduce crime, arson and nuisance in the area which will contribute to the improvement of safe and healthy homes in this neighbourhood. Which in turn will offer children and younger people a much better setting to grow up in.</p>

What are the potential negative impacts?
No negative impacts on health have been identified in association with this activity. The activity seeks to ensure that a greater number of houses are used for their purpose.

What are the assumptions/risks embedded in or underpinning the activity?
No assumptions or risks have been identified with this activity.

Are there any external factors which identify the nature and extent of the impacts on health for this type of proposal (e.g. research; policy changes etc.)
<p>Local Government Association, action to tackle empty homes - http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=5416e10f-218a-4994-811f-0e96ce93227c&groupId=10180</p> <p>House of Commons, Empty Housing Briefing Paper - http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN03012#fullreport</p> <p>Housing Health and Safety rating System – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-health-and-safety-rating-system-guidance-for-landlords-and-property-related-professionals</p>

List the groups most likely to be affected by this proposal
This proposal will contribute positively to the overall health and safety off all members of the community and neighbourhood affected.

What are some of the potential equity issues?
The re-occupation of these empty, and potentially problematic properties, will contribute to the reduction of nuisance, crime, arson and fly-tipping resulting in an overall improvement to the social and physical environment of the neighbourhood. This will be to the benefit of all residents regardless of any individual characteristics.

CHECKLIST

Answers favouring doing an HIA	To your knowledge	Answers favouring not doing a HIA
Health impacts		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Does the initiative affect health directly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Does the initiative affect health indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any potential serious negative health impacts that you currently know of?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Is further investigation necessary because more information is required on the potential health impacts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are the potential health impacts well known and is it straightforward to identify effective ways in which beneficial effects can be maximised and harmful effects minimised?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Community		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Is a large proportion of the population likely to be affected by the initiative (<i>over 25% of the resident population</i>)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any socially excluded, vulnerable, disadvantaged groups likely to be affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any community concerns about any potential health impacts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Initiative		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is there some reason to suspect that health issues not considered in the planning process of this initiative might become more visible by doing an HIA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is the cost of the initiative high (<i>over £100,000</i>)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is the nature and extent of the disruption to the affected population likely to be major?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Organisation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is the initiative a high priority/important for the organisation/partnership?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Are the individuals and organisations with a stake in this initiative likely to buy into the HIA process?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is there potential to change the proposal? Will there be any other similar proposals in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
FOR = 3	TOTAL	AGAINST = 11

Choosing which HIA to do

Health Impact Statement	Type of HIA	Comprehensive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is there only limited time in which to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is there only limited opportunity to influence the decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is the timeframe for the decision-making process set by external factors beyond your control?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Are there only very limited resources available to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Deciding who should do the HIA

External	Assessors	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Do personnel in the organisation or partnership have the necessary skills and expertise to conduct the HIA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Do personnel in the organisation or partnership have the time to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Is an HIA appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Why or why not?	
No negative impacts to health have been identified. All impacts on health will be positive ones including the removal of category 1 and 2 hazards from houses and the reduction of fly-tipping, crime, arson and nuisance to neighbourhoods.	
If yes, what type and how?	
N/A	
Recommendations / comments	
none	

Completed by: _____


Date: 16th January 2017

Approved by

(Head of Service/Director):


Date: 16th January 2017

This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility and ownership of the HIA and the resulting action plan (if applicable).

Approved by

(Public Health):



Date: 31/01/2017

This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility to publish the completed HIA.

Once this form has been completed and approved, this document should be saved as the Health Impact Statement for the specified activity, any actions should be monitored appropriately