

The 'Better Decision Making' tool has been designed to help you consider the impact of your proposal on the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment, and local economy. It draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services by considering the equalities and human rights implications of the decisions we make. The purpose of this tool is to avoid decisions being made in isolation, and to encourage evidence-based decision making that carefully balances social, economic and environmental factors, helping us to become a more responsive and resilient organisation.

The Better Decision Making tool should be used when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies, or significant amendments to them. The tool should be completed at the earliest opportunity, ideally when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. However, it can be completed at any stage of the decision-making process. If the tool is completed just prior to the Executive, it can still help to guide future courses of action as the proposal is implemented.

The Better Decision Making tool must be attached as an annex to Executive reports. A brief summary of your findings should be reported in the One Planet Council / Equalities section of the report itself.

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant question.

Please complete all fields. If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Introduction

Service submitting the proposal:	Housing Services
Name of person completing the assessment:	Denis Southall
Job title:	Head of Housing Services
Directorate:	HHASC
Date Completed:	
Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):	

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed? Update of Housing Revenue (HRA) Account Business Plan 2017 - 2047
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal? Outline the financial forecast for the HRA over the next 30 years including firm investment decisions over the next 5 years and priorities for the service
1.3	What are the key outcomes? Financial prudence over the lifespan of the plan leading to solid investment in maintenance of the stock, new development of housing units and developing the service to support the wider priorities of the council and residents.

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	What data / evidence is available to support the proposal and understand its likely impact? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics) Financial modelling and forecasting has been carried out to support the plan.
2.2	What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings? Consultation on the plan with resident forums and appropriate consultation on selected programmes within the overall plan.
2.3	Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal? (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?) Strategic Partnership with the Homes & Communities Agency for the Accelerated Delivery of Housing

Section 3: Impact on One Planet principles

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on residents or staff.
This section relates to the impact of your proposal on the ten One Planet principles.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Equity and Local Economy

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.1	Impact positively on the business community in York?	Positive	Major investment of £20m development fund and £80m in repairs & maintenance over the next 5 years
3.2	Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Positive	Potential for some of above to provide employment opportunities
3.3	Help improve the lives of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups?	Positive	More affordable housing and of a better quality in the existing stock due to the investment

Health & Happiness

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.4	Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of residents or staff?	Positive	Improved stock and availability of more affordable housing coupled with the early intervention and prevention and realising community and individuals strengths approaches will contribute to this. Continued investment in adaptations to properties where needed combined with initiative such as the Falls Reduction Service.
3.5	Help reduce health inequalities?	Positive	Better insulated, modernised homes and holistic advice and signposting by the service will help reduce inequalities
3.6	Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Positive	Advice, signposting and low level interventions coupled with being part of wide Local Area Teams will encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health and wellbeing.
3.7	Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Positive	Smaller patches for Housing Management Officers (HMO) and ongoing investment in the environment shaped by residents will be a positive influencing factor
3.8	Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Positive	There is a range of evidence that stable, long term, affordable, decent housing has a positive impact on the life chances of young people.

Culture & Community

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.90	Help bring communities together?	Positive	The refreshed approach to Housing Management will tap in to and encourage community and individual strengths as part of the council's approach to community development and cohesion. Resources have been identified to work specificall on this area as part of the recent restructure
3.10	Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Positive	Smaller patches with a single Housing Management Officer working or based locally will improve the time available for the most vulnerable. Significant investment in ICT, mobile working and self service will support this approach.
3.11	Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Positive	Encouraging communities and individuals to contribute and be part of the cultural development of the city will help move things forward in this area
3.12	Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Positive	Housing Management Officers will promote a comprehensive range of council and partner initiatives across agendas and this will include initiatives such as recycling, health and wellbeing, fly tipping etc

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water

Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
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3.13	Minimise the amount of energy we use and / or reduce the amount of energy we pay for? E.g. through the use of low or zero carbon sources of energy?	Positive	Officers will encourage residents to reduce fuel costs and be more energy efficient. There is also major investment in energy saving such as replacing boilers with more energy efficient ones. Installation of heat source pumps will also contribute to this.
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use and/or reduce the amount of water we pay for?	Positive	Residents will be encouraged to use less water and adopt water meters where appropriate.

Zero Waste

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.15	Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?		

Sustainable Transport

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.16	Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Positive	HMOs will work with residents and colleagues in waste management and sustainable transport to encourage reductions in waste and pollution.
3.17	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Positive	As above

Sustainable Materials

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.18	Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Unsure	

Local and Sustainable Food

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.19	Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?	Positive	Encouragement and support for community based initiatives in the area

Land Use and Wildlife

	Does your proposal?	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.20	Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Positive	Housing Environmental Improvement Programme initiatives can be spent on improving and conserving housing land
3.21	Improve the quality of the built environment?	Positive	The major investment will supply more affordable homes and improve existing stock
3.22	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Positive	Investment will be inline with local plan, conservation requirements and other legislative requirements
3.23	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Positive	New developments will incorporate shared public space wherever possible

3.40	Additional space to comment on the impacts		

Section 4: Impact on Equalities and Human Rights

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on staff or residents. This section relates to the impact of your proposal on **advancing equalities and human rights** and should build on the impacts you identified in the previous section.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'

Equalities

Will the proposal **adversely impact** upon 'communities of identity'?
Will it **help advance equality** or **foster good relations** between people in 'communities of identity'?

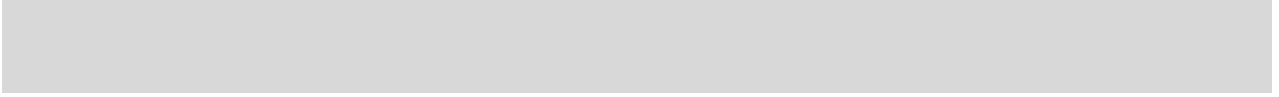
	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
4.1 Age	Positive	The investment in more affordable housing along with the review of all independent living schemes and continuation of the Older Persons Accommodation Programme will improve the accommodation available for older residents
4.2 Disability	Positive	New developments will be designed and built to accessible standards and be amendable to easy adaptation where possible
4.3 Gender	Neutral	
4.4 Gender Reassignment	Neutral	
4.5 Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	
4.6 Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	
4.7 Race	Neutral	
4.8 Religion or belief	Neutral	
4.9 Sexual orientation		
4.10 Carer		
4.11 Lowest income groups	Positive	More affordable housing will help those families allocated live within their means.
4.12 Veterans, Armed forces community	Positive	Policies reflect the spirit of the CYC adopted Forces Covenant

Human Rights

Consider how a human rights approach is evident in the proposal

	Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
4.13 Right to education	Neutral	
4.14 Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment	Neutral	
4.15 Right to a fair and public hearing	Positive	Policies include right to appeal, reviews and use of the complaints procedure / housing ombudsman
4.16 Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Positive	The plan indicates intention to retain housing stock and provide secure tenancies where applicable.
4.17 Freedom of expression	Neutral	
4.18 Right not to be subject to discrimination	Neutral	
4.19 Other Rights	Neutral	

4.20 **Additional space to comment on the impacts**



Section 5: Planning for Improvement

5.1	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on the One Planet principles? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)
	Considerable investment in affordable homes will have a positive impact on the lives of residents in ways outlined.

5.2	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on equalities and human rights? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)

5.3	Going forward, what further evidence or consultation is needed to ensure the proposal delivers its intended benefits? e.g. consultation with specific vulnerable groups, additional data)
	Ongoing consultation and surveying of residents including a commitment to include hard to reach residents is part of the housing engagement strategy

5.4	Please record any outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal? (Expand / insert more rows if needed)
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Action	Person(s)	Due date

In the One Planet / Equalities section of your Executive report, please briefly summarise the changes you have made (or intend to make) in order to improve the social, economic and environmental impact of your proposal.