

**Budget 2024/25 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)****Housing Solutions (Economy General Fund) Investment and Growth Proposals****Increase in Temporary Accommodation Client Numbers - £1.500m**

1. An increase in Temporary Accommodation (TA) client presentations combined with a reduction in supply of rehousing solutions is resulting in additional client numbers within the service. The most likely outcome is for an average of 3 (Demand of 15 less Supply of 12) new clients per week for the rest of this year and an upper limit of 4 new clients each week for 24/25 (Demand of 16 less Supply of 12). These are based on the net increase in TA tenants compared to current numbers. It is expected that this proposal will have a positive impact on groups that share protected characteristics as the budget growth will fund the increasing presentations of homelessness within the borough and assist in having a positive impact on the cohort.

**Housing Solutions (Economy General Fund) Savings Proposals****Efficient commissioning of Temporary Accommodation - £0.100m**

2. This proposal will involve implementing improvements in the procurement and commissioning of temporary accommodation and making improvements to the management and level of void properties. The current budget allows for 4% of Temporary Accommodation properties to remain void at any one time and it is expected that improvements can be made on this. It is believed that this proposal has a neutral impact on groups that share protected characteristics as the Council will continue to buy accommodation of a suitable standard and providing it in line with the Council's statutory duty. Also, the cost to clients will not be increasing because of this saving proposal.

**Review of Housing Solutions team - £0.150m**

3. The service is in the process of implementing an approved restructure that will reduce agency staff and enable overall staffing. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the review process to ascertain any potential impact on staff who share protected characteristics.

**Acquisition of housing for Temporary Accommodation savings - £0.200m**

4. There has been recent success with the Council purchasing supported housing from Shepherds Bush Housing Group. Even in the current climate of high borrowing costs, it may be possible for further acquisitions to enable savings or at the very least cost avoidance for the Council through providing our own temporary accommodation. The proposal is intended to help address the increase in homelessness presentations in line with the Council's statutory obligation to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people in a financially sustainable way. It is believed that this proposal has a positive impact on groups that share protected characteristics for the following reasons: purchase of further Temporary Accommodation would provide further Temporary Accommodation options to allow the Council to meet its homelessness obligations and help address the increase in homelessness presentations.