

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>17 SEPTEMBER 2012</b>			
<b>Provision of Carers in Rural Areas</b>	The Commission recommends that the Council encourage and promote local carers to come together to work pro actively to increase direct payment care provision in rural areas.	Nick Blake /Tim Bishop	<p>The recommendation has been taken forward by the Adult Social Care Department in line with departmental priorities to promote and support people to maintain their independence and delivering a personalised approach to care. The Council will be promoting and supporting the uptake of Direct Payments with the aim for Direct Payments to be the favoured way for people to receive their Personal Budget. A particular focus will be given to rural areas through the following approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commissioning team will be reviewing service provision and availability of services across all service user groups.</li> <li>• Support options available through Direct Payments in rural areas will be covered through this work with a view to supporting the development of services where gaps exist.</li> <li>• Direct Payments as an option to meet eligible need is discussed by social care staff as part of assessment and support planning, this will be picked up as a specific issue to cover at review for all services users living in rural areas over 2013/2014.</li> <li>• Improving and supporting access to Personal Assistants funded through Direct Payments will be part of the development of information and advice systems</li> </ul>

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			<p>and resources, including reviewing the development of a personal assistant register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ASC Commissioning Team will be working with the Direct Payment Support Service over 2013/2014 to develop and deliver a programme of engagement with Direct Payment recipients and Personal Assistants to promote access to Personal Assistants over 2013/2014.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disability Issues in Rural Areas</b></p>	<p>The Commission recommends that before the Council agrees planning permission for commercial developments it ensures that provisions for disabled people have been taken into account and that Equality Impact Assessments have been conducted. If the development was found to be inaccessible to disabled people, planning permission should not be granted.</p>	<p>Simon Machen</p>	<p>Nick Harding Development Management Group Manager suggested that the Commission reconsider the matter as the proposal duplicated the existing provisions in operation under the building control regime.</p>
	<p>The Commission recommends that Directors of Services should submit updates on Equality Impact Assessments undertaken to the relevant Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>Kim Sawyer</p>	<p>The requirement to carry out equality impact assessments changed with David Cameron's announcement in November 2012 that the government was calling time on equality impact assessments (EIA). Brandon Lewis (the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)) then wrote to all leaders and chief executives of local authorities confirming some of the key points made by the Prime Minister.</p>

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			<p>The letter sent on 21 December 2012:</p> <p>Confirms the guidance provided by the Government Equalities Office (GEO) to Whitehall departments that EIAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are not, and never have been a legal requirement; and</li> <li>• can be resource intensive and take staff away from planning and delivering public services.</li> </ul> <p>Informs local authorities that the GEO guidance applies to them and that they should use their judgement to pay due regard to equality (a duty that is imposed under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA 2010)) without having to resort to time-consuming, tick-box exercises at the end of a decision-making process. It is key for local authorities to take a proportionate, timely approach to assessing equality at the outset and also to ensure that there is an audit trail of that process.</p> <p>So there is no longer any legal obligation to carry out a formal EIA under section 149 of the EqA 2010. However, local authorities have generally been concerned that without the assessment there is no means of demonstrating compliance with the public sector equality duty (PSED).</p> <p>Where does that leave the Council? The approach that is favoured by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) (and indeed has been advocated by the courts in various decisions over the years as good practice) is that</p>

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			<p>Councils should undertake an analysis of the effects on equality of a particular decision. This is therefore done within the report which is referred to members for decision. Our report template seeks to ensure that all the legal implications of the decision, including the requirement to comply with the PSED (and how the decision does in fact deal with the PSED), is dealt with in the body of the report. If members are dissatisfied that the report adequately deals with the PSED they should either make further enquiries at the meeting or refer the decision back to the relevant officer until members are satisfied that the duty has been addressed.</p> <p>That is a very long way of saying that Councils may not always carry out a separate assessment. The important issue is that the equality duty has been addressed before the decision is made. This should be done in the report.</p>
<b>19 November 2012</b>			
<p><b>Consultation on the Draft Common Housing Allocations Policy</b></p>	<p>The Commission recommends that the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning investigates the feasibility to grant additional preference within rural areas to housing applicants of substantive and long standing Village connections.</p>	<p>Cllr Hiller</p>	<p>Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: Note and agree the proposed Common Housing Register Allocations Policy and to agree for the proposed policy to be presented to full council for agreement and adoption. Review the Policy but not include the awarding of additional preference – this would not promote full discussion and debate of the policy.</p>

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<b>14 January 2013</b>			
<p><b>Provision of Primary Care in Rural Areas</b></p>	<p>The Commission recommends that the Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues look into the provision for Community First Response and first aid provision in rural areas.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues</p>	<p>The following response was received from the Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues at its meeting on the 23 January 2013 was able to ask officers from the East of England Ambulance Service who were in attendance at the meeting about the provision for Community First Response and first aid provision in rural areas. The following information was provided.</p> <p>The Community First Response groups in and around the Peterborough area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Whittlesey (Eastrea and Turves) - 10 members</li> <li>· Yaxley - 5 members</li> <li>· Wittering- 6 members</li> <li>· (north Cambs includes March – 5 members</li> <li>· Doddington - 4 members</li> <li>· Chatteris - 3 members</li> </ul> <p>Some of the Community First Responders are still going through training.</p>

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