

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	To cease the sale of Amenity / Garden Land except in exceptional cases - Key Cabinet Decision
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	
<p>This relates to green spaces, or amenity / garden land commonly found within Southampton Council housing estates. They are parcels of green spaces typically incorporated at the end of individual rows of homes to create additional space either side of roads or public footpaths as part of the original housing estate design.</p> <p>The result of this report is that residents will no longer be able to purchase areas of land adjoining their property which in the past has been used for house extensions, extensions to their garden or even in some cases to build extra properties subject to planning permission. The exception is that residents with disabilities or age-related needs will continue to be able to purchase land that facilitates access to their homes.</p>	
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	
<p>Majority of purchase applications are unsuccessful due to considerations related to existing right-of-way, green space as a landscaping feature of the local environment, whether the sale would incur extra cost for the council related to re-sting of lamp posts or utility cables and whether the applicant is willing to finance the costs.</p> <p>Applicants pay a £100 fee, between 2019 -2022 only 1 application has resulted in a sale. Over the last few years most applications that have been submitted have been unsuccessful, but whilst the policy remains in place there is a requirement for the Council to continue to take the £100 application fee and process applications. This results in disappointment to members of the public.</p> <p>Majority of applications are not progressed because of objections based on the considerations highlighted above. In cases where applications are refused, they have in the past lead to long drawn-out complaints.</p>	

If the current policy is changed, there is likelihood of complaints from people wishing to purchase these green spaces. However it is important to note that since 2019 when The Green City Charter was launched, to date, there has only been one sale.

**Potential Positive Impacts**

Sale of amenity / garden land in exceptional cases will ensure that vulnerable residents with disabilities and age-related disabled residents are catered for and are able to purchase land for their access needs where required.

The protection of amenity and green spaces, and only selling these spaces in exceptional cases enable not just disabled residents, but all Southampton residents, to enjoy the benefits of green spaces within and beyond their own communities.

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Ola Onabajo
<b>Date</b>	01/11/2023
<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Tina Dyer-Slade
<b>Date</b>	15/11/23

**Potential Impact**

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	Age-related disability will be an exception that enables a sale on the basis of access or other requirement.  Residents of all ages will benefit from wellbeing associated with the use of green spaces.	
<b>Disability</b>	The council will be able to provide residents with disabilities targeted support in the sale of land that deals with access to their homes and other significant access / disability related matters.	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Care Experienced</b>	No negative impact	

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Race</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Sex</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Community Safety</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Poverty</b>	No negative impact	
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	For all Southampton residents, access to amenity and green spaces will have a positive impact, in relation to health & wellbeing	
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>	No negative impact  The only negative impact is that there is a likelihood of complaints from people who are no longer able to purchase parcels of amenity land and green spaces.	