

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Council Tax Support Scheme 2020

1.	Title of EIA	Change to council tax support scheme
c	Person responsible for the assessment	Rob Dobson
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4.	Date of assessment	January 2020

The outcome of this equality impact assessment is that the proposed change to council tax support being considered **is neutral** in terms of their impact on people with protected characteristics under equalities legislation.

OBJECTIVE

1.	What is the main purpose of the project?	<p>The council is considering a change to its council tax support scheme. The scheme offers a means tested reduction in council tax for those on low incomes.</p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the minimum payment for working age claimants of council tax support by 2.5% over two years, so it will reduce by 1.5% in 2020/21 and by a further 1% in 2021/22.</p> <p>Practical example: A household of two or more people in a Band A property must pay £1,278.50 in council tax. If the household is on income support and can claim the full amount of council tax support, then the amount they currently pay reduces to £223.74.</p> <p>Under the proposal, assuming no change in the full council tax due for Band A properties, by 2021/22 the household will pay 2.5% less i.e., the amount due will go down by £31.96 to £191.78.</p> <p>In order to implement the proposal, the cost to the council is estimated to be about £26,000 a year by 2021. However, the cost of this will be met by a Council Tax premium, charged on properties which have been empty long term.</p>
2.	Who are the main stakeholders?	Residents of the borough: council tax payers and council tax support recipients.

3.	How are they expected to benefit?	Low income residents will benefit from a decrease in the amount of council tax they are required to pay.
4.	How will the change be implemented?	Through a change in policy.
6.	Is the responsibility for the proposed function shared with another department or authority or organisation?	It is the responsibility of Liberata Revenues and Benefits Team to implement the policy and update systems accordingly.

A. DATA COLLECTION

1.	Approach and background to EIA analysis, including data collection	Public consultation. Desktop review of proposed policy change, and of other councils' assessments of the equality impact of their council tax support scheme.
2.	What monitoring data do you have on the number of people (from different equality groups) who are using and could be impacted upon by the change in function?	Various data sources are held, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of CTS recipients • Census data.

B. COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

1.	What information has assisted in completing this EIA?	Consultation data. 72 consultation responses broken down by age, ethnicity and disability. No evidence of negative impact by protected characteristic.
2.	What communications activities have assisted in completing this EIA?	None

Group	Area/s of impact	Positive impact	Negative impact – specified as high, medium or low	Neutral impact	Reason
Age	All areas of impact ¹			✓	Under 18s are not liable to pay council tax so won't be considered as part of this scheme. Pensioners are excluded from these changes.
Disability	All areas of impact	✓			Positive impact on low income disabled residents
Gender reassignment	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.
Marriage and civil partnership	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.
Pregnancy / and maternity	All areas of impact	✓			Positive impact on low income residents faced with additional costs associated with pregnancy and maternity.
Race	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.
Religion and belief	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.
Sex (gender)	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.
Sexual orientation	All areas of impact			✓	All impacts in respect of people in this group were identified as neutral.

¹ 'All areas of impact' refers to the detailed list of proposed savings set out as Appendix One to this report.

Equality impact assessment action plan

Not applicable.