

**Provide basic detail**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

**Directorate:** Directorate of Resources

**Service:** Finance

**Name and job title of person doing the assessment**

**Name:** Samantha Wills

**Job Title:** Revenues & Benefits Manager

**Date of assessment:** 09/09/2021

**Scope your proposal**

**What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?**

To consider the options to amend the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for implementation from 1 April 2022. The following 5 proposals have been identified for consultation:

Proposal 1 - Provide an increase in support from the current 65% maximum to a value between 70% & 75% maximum, dependant on caseload change and affordability at tax base setting;

Proposal 2 - Remove "Working Age" Council Tax Support minimum of £5 per month, (equivalent to £1.15 p/w) or less;

Proposal 3 - Increase the upper capital limit from £3,000 to £6,000;

Proposal 4 - Allow a maximum of one month backdating provision and;

Proposal 5 - Set a standard rate of £10 Non-Dependant Deduction to apply for non-dependants irrespective of whether engaged and not engaged in remunerative work.

**Who will benefit from this proposal and how?**

Everyone who currently receives or becomes eligible for support through the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, except pensioners, will be affected in a positive way by these changes.

**What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?**

Increased levels of support for those who currently receive or become eligible for a Local Council Tax Reduction, except pensioners. It will reduce the risk of customers falling into arrears and suffering financial hardship.

In addition, a reduction in administration processes for both customer and staff.

**Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?**

74,500 Council Tax payers including 8,000 in receipt of Council Tax Support

Preceptors

Special interest organisations such as Citizens Advice, Welfare Rights, Housing Associations, National Federation of Landlords

Organisations representing vulnerable groups

**Assess whether an EIA is Relevant**

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; promoting equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some (racial, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religious belief) groups may be affected differently than others? (Think about your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.)

No

Pensioners will be protected from any changes as prescribed, they cannot be asked to contribute any additional amount therefore their Council Tax Support entitlement remains the same.

For households of working age, these customers are positively affected by the changes.

Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Think about your complaints, consultation, and feedback.

No

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If No you **MUST** complete this statement

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because:

The proposals made affect all groups equally, the proposals positively impact on all who currently receive or become eligible for support through the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Signed-completing officer

Samantha Wills

9/9/21

Signed-Lead Officer