

**Review of Equality Impact Assessment  
Local Council Tax Support Scheme**

<b>Subject of assessment</b>	<b>Local Council Tax Support Scheme</b>		
<b>Lead Officer (job title)</b>	Lee Banks		
<b>Date of assessment</b>	13/10/2014	<b>Is this a review of a service or decision?</b>	Service
<b>Are there any changes since the original assessment which are relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty?</b>			No
<b>If yes, please indicate which of the aims it is relevant to:</b>			
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			Not applicable
Advance equality of opportunity			Not applicable
Foster good relations			Not applicable
For each of the following characteristics, summarise any new data, consultation activity, interpretation of the impacts and actions that can be taken to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts.			
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Summary of any new information and impacts</b>		<b>Actions</b>
<b>Disability</b>	<p>The Council's initial impact assessment identified that an 18.5% reduction in council tax support had the potential to negatively impact on people with disabilities as a result of the relatively high proportion in protected pensioner households. People with a disability would, on average, pay £2.52 more per week towards their council tax bill.</p> <p>The review of the impact assessment for 2015/16 concluded that (when adjusted for the increase in council tax levels) people with a disability would, on average, pay £2.44 more per week towards their council tax bill.</p> <p>It is therefore concluded that the impact on disabled claimants has not altered significantly since the initial impact assessment.</p>		WKEP Aim: <a href="#">Other actions as a service provider</a>
<b>Carers</b>	<p>The Council's initial impact assessment identified that an 18.5% reduction in council tax support had the potential to negatively impact on carers as a result of the relatively high proportion in protected pensioner households. Carers would, on average, pay £2.87 extra per week towards their council tax bill.</p> <p>The review of the impact assessment for 2015/16 concluded that (when adjusted for the increase in council tax levels) people with a disability would, on average, pay £3.77 more per week towards their council tax bill.</p> <p>It is therefore concluded that the impact on carers is more significant than initially anticipated. This is partially explained by a fall in the proportion of claimants that are carers of pension age. As a result there is a greater number of payments that</p>		WKEP Aim: <a href="#">Other actions as a service provider</a>

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	receive an 18.5% deduction which reduces the average payment for the total caseload.	
<b>Race</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of local council tax support.	WKEP Aim: <a href="#">Other actions as a service provider</a>
<b>Gender</b>	<p>The Council's initial impact assessment identified that an 18.5% reduction has potential to negatively impact on females as they are more likely to be the primary applicant and / or have dependent children. Females would pay £1.85 extra per week toward their council tax bill whilst males would pay £1.60 extra per week. This is a gap of £0.25 per week or £13 per year.</p> <p>The review of the impact assessment for 2015/16 concluded that (when adjusted for the increase in council tax levels) females would pay £2.12 extra per week towards their council tax bill whilst males would pay £2.23 extra per week. This is a gap of £0.11 per week or £5.72 per year.</p> <p>It is therefore concluded that the impact on females is less significant than initially anticipated. However it is recognised that both male and female claimants are required to pay more each week towards their council tax than initially anticipated.</p>	WKEP Aim: <a href="#">Other actions as a service provider</a>
<b>Age</b>	<p>The Government have prescribed that low income pensioners must be protected from any reduction in support. The Council therefore has no discretion in implementing this aspect of the scheme.</p> <p>The Council's initial impact assessment identified that an 18.5% reduction across all working age claimants would see those aged 18-24 receiving the lowest reduction (£178) and those aged 35-44 receiving the highest reduction (£188), on average, per year. The difference in average reduction of £10 per year equates to an additional payment towards a claimants council tax of £0.19 per week.</p> <p>The review of the impact assessment concluded that those aged 55-64 receive the lowest reduction in council tax support of £159 and those aged 25-34 receive the highest reduction of £218, on average, per year. The difference in average reduction of £59 per year equates to an additional payment towards a claimants council tax of £1.13 per week.</p> <p>It is therefore concluded that variance of average impact by age is more significant than initially anticipated and that people of all age groups are required to pay more each week towards their council tax than initially anticipated.</p>	WKEP Aim: <a href="#">Other actions as a service provider</a>

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<b>Religion / Belief</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of council tax benefit.			WKEP Aim:Other actions as a service provider
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of council tax benefit.			WKEP Aim:Other actions as a service provider
<b>Pregnancy / Maternity</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of council tax benefit.			WKEP Aim:Other actions as a service provider
<b>Marital or Civil Partnership Status</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of council tax benefit.			WKEP Aim:Other actions as a service provider
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	This information is not collected from claimants as it is not relevant to the calculation of council tax benefit.			WKEP Aim:Other actions as a service provider
<b>Additional comments / summary</b>	<p>As pensioners are protected, the reduction in the level of support falls to working age claimants.</p> <p>The actual average cut for any given group will depend on how many of that group are in protected pensioner households. Since the initial assessment the proportion of claimants of pension age has reduced from 51.4% to 48.7%. As a result a greater proportion of claimants are now working age. This means that a greater proportion of council tax support payments are reduced by 18.5% than anticipated in the initial impact assessment.</p> <p>Resultantly when the impact on the whole caseload is assessed the outcome is an increase in the average amount of council tax that claimants are expected to pay.</p> <p>In mitigation the Council's local council tax support scheme continues to adopt the calculation methods of the previous council tax benefit scheme. As a result it continues to provide more support to some groups than others (households with young families, people with disabilities and carers).</p>			
<b>Please tick the outcome of this assessment:</b>	No impact	Adjust the policy	Continue the policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy