

Appendix B – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22 - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<p>Name, brief description and objectives of policy, procedure, function?</p>	<p>For Council to agree the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for West Lindsey DC for 2021/22.</p> <p>To ensure that all council tax payers are treated fairly under the local scheme.</p> <p>To ensure that council tax support is payable to the most vulnerable residents of the district.</p>
<p>Have you consulted on the policy, procedure, function and if so, what were the outcomes?</p>	<p>No consultation has taken place as the recommendations are to continue with the current scheme except for applying any new legislative requirements and the uprating of the non-dependent charges, applicable amounts and household allowances and deductions, used in the calculation of the reduction in accordance with the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) annual upratings.</p>
<p>What barriers may these individuals or groups face, and how can you promote equality (where possible)</p>	
<p>Gender</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>Working age claimants of Council Tax Support may receive a reduced level of assistance as compared with the former Council Tax Benefit Scheme. This scheme aims to redistribute support and be more generous to those applicants on the lowest incomes;</p> <p>The government has stated that council tax support for older people will not be reduced as a result of the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme reform. This is because the government wants to ensure that low income pensioners, who would struggle to pay council tax without additional support, and whom the government does not expect to work to increase their income, will continue to receive support for their council tax.</p> <p>Pensioner protection will be achieved by keeping in place national rules which broadly replicate the former council tax benefit scheme.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic except in the case of War Pension and those claimants receiving a Disability Benefit who are protected by the Government.</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.</p>
<p>Religion or Belief</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.</p>

Gender Reassignment	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
Pregnancy, maternity or paternity	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
Rural Isolation	There is no evidence that this policy would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic.
Socio-economic factors	There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic. However any person unable to complete the application form will be offered assistance from the Benefits Teams in completing the application form and also be signposted to outside agencies such as Citizens Advice and Money Advice Service
Other (eg: those with dependants/caring responsibilities, asylum seeker and refugee communities, children in the care system etc)	There is no evidence that this scheme would impact on people in any way because of this characteristic. However any person unable to complete the local council tax support application form will be offered assistance from the Benefits Team in completing the form and also be signposted to outside agencies such as Citizens Advice and Money Advice Service
Is there any evidence or research that demonstrates why some individuals or groups are, or are not, affected?	There is no evidence or research available. This policy is based on nationally applicable legislation and it covers all applicants who must all meet a set of standards and criteria intended to ensure that evidence of hardship justifies a reduction in council tax liability.
If there is a potential adverse impact, please state why and whether this is justifiable.	There is no potential adverse impact from this policy.
Outcome of EIA	No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy /proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy/proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
How will you monitor your policy, procedure, function to ensure there is no adverse effect on the protected characteristics (eg: gender, age, etc) in the future?	Due to the nature of the reductions in the level of support, all working age claimants have the potential to have reductions in their support, however, they can be considered for further assistance under the exceptional hardship policy.