

Equality Impact Assessment Form



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| Directorate: Finance and HR | Service: Finance and Human Resources |
| Completed by: M Taylor | Date: 30 November 2018 |
| Subject Title: Empty Homes Council Tax | |
| 1. DESCRIPTION | |
| Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised: | No <i>*delete as appropriate</i> |
| Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback: | No |
| Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed: | No |
| Is a budget being set or funding allocated: | No |
| Is a programme or project being planned: | No |
| Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors: | Yes |
| Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations): | Yes |
| Details of the matter under consideration: | Increase in the level of council tax charged on homes empty for more than 2 years as a result of new legislation. |
| <p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i></p> <p><i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p> | |
| 2. RELEVANCE | |
| Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): | Yes <i>*delete as appropriate</i> |
| If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i> | This report has an impact on the council tax charged on homes that have been empty for more than 2 years. |
| If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i> | |
| 3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION | |
| Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)? | Council tax payers for homes that have been empty for more than 2 years. |
| If the work being carried out relates to a | See Above. |

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| universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)? | |
| Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity | No data is held in relation to council tax payers for empty homes. |
| 4. DATA ANALYSIS | |
| In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why? | A council tax premium is currently charged on homes that have been empty for more than 2 years. Under this proposal the level of this charge would increase to provide a financial incentive for the property to be brought back into use. |
| What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders? | A higher level of council tax will be paid. |
| What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals? | The Council currently charges the maximum council tax premium on homes empty for more than 2 years. New legislation will increase the maximum possible charge. |
| What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics? | No data is available on the protected characteristics of council tax payers. This change is being introduced though as a result of new legislation. |
| If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify: | N/A |
| 5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS | |
| In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)? | No data is available to assess this impact. |

6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT

If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).

If the council tax payer brings the property back into use, or begins to actively market the property for sale or rent, then they will no longer be subject to a premium council tax charge.

What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?

No further actions on equality impact need to be taken.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING

When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?

This assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual budget setting process.