

East Suffolk - Equality Impact Analysis (EqIA)

EqIA reference: **EQIA352910725**

Service area/Team conducting EqIA: **ARP Revenue & Benefits**

Officer conducting the EqIA: **Andrew Rose**

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Responsible Cabinet member: **Councillor Maurice Cook**

Title of project/policy/initiative/action relating to this EqIA: **East Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) for 2022/23**

Is this a new project, policy, initiative or action that directly impacts people: **Yes**

Date of EqIA: **2021-07-29**

Does the project/policy/initiative/action relating to this EqIA have the potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

| Characteristic - Impact | Reason |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Age: No impact | <p>The East Suffolk Council Tax Support Scheme is based in the national default scheme which was previously the Council Tax Benefit Scheme.</p> <p>The proposed changes may affect working age customers dependent on capital, household circumstances or Council Tax liability, not on the basis on age.</p> <p>Customers of pensionable age (this is defined by legislation, and will change over time as the state retirement age changes upwards) will not be affected by these changes as the Government has specified that they must be protected.</p> <p>All information being published about the changes make reference to the changes only affecting working age customers.</p> <p>Households with children and young adults at school will continue to be supported by Child Benefit and</p> <p>Maintenance being ignored in calculation Council Tax Support assessments.</p> |

| Characteristic - Impact | Reason |
|--|---|
| Disability: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability irrespective of disability.</p> <p>Existing protections for customers entitled to a severe disability premium would be retained meaning there would continue to be an exemption from non-dependant deductions.</p> <p>No mitigation is required</p> |
| Gender reassignment: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability irrespective of a person's gender reassignment.</p> <p>No mitigation is required,</p> |
| Marriage and civil partnership: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability irrespective of marital or civil partnership status</p> <p>No mitigation is required,</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability. There is no impact in relation to pregnancy and maternity.</p> <p>Applicable amounts and premiums remain unchanged.</p> <p>No mitigation required.</p> |
| Race: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability There is no impact in relation to race of a person.</p> <p>Council Tax Support is a means tested benefit, race is not a factor of the scheme.</p> <p>No mitigation required.</p> |

| Characteristic - Impact | Reason |
|---|---|
| Religion or belief: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability There is no impact in relation to religion or belief of a person.</p> <p>No mitigation required.</p> |
| Sex: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability There is no impact in relation to the sex of person.</p> <p>No mitigation required.</p> |
| Sexual orientation: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability. There is no impact in relation to sexual orientation of a person.</p> <p>No mitigation required.</p> |
| Deprivation/Socio-economic Disadvantage: No impact | <p>The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme may affect working age customers based on either capital, household income or Council Tax liability.</p> <p>These proposed charges will result in some customers receiving more Council Tax Support and some receiving less.</p> <p>The proposed changes aim to target assistance to those customers who have under £10,000 capital and reduce the evidence requirement burden for customers. In addition the proposed changes aim to provide stable payment arrangements and provide financial certainty by applying a standard rate non-dependent deduction and increasing the amount used within the Universal Credit tolerance rule.</p> <p>Mitigation. To continue with the discretion to review exceptional cases to override the Universal Credit tolerance rule in the case of a single beneficial change being reported.</p> |

What evidence or data has been collated or used to support the completion of this EqIA **Other**

As a result of undertaking this EqIA do you need to provide information relating to the policy, project, initiative or action to the public in a different language or form and how do you propose to do this: **If the proposed changes are agreed a public consultation will need to be commenced which will be required to be accessible to all customers and stakeholders.**

As a result of completing this EqIA, has the Author, Service team, Project manager made any changes or adjustments to the policy/project/initiative/action: **No**

Is the policy/project/initiative/action subject to equality monitoring: **No**