

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Michael Fisher

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Head of Section: Michael Fisher

Chief Officer: Matthew Bennett

Directorate: Finance

Date: 7 January 2025

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed? Changes to the Councils Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Working Age Claimants

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Policy & Resources Committee 15 January 2025

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website
[Equality Impact Assessments from May 23 - Finance | Wirral Council](#)

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals. We encourage services to consider the impact on those who serve and who have served in the armed forces and their families, in accordance with the Armed Forces Covenant

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction	Negative, the maximum award of support under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is reducing from 88% to 82.5%.	Residents experiencing financial hardship because of the change will be directed to the Councils Hardship Policy under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The funding under this policy will be doubled to £100k.	Michael Fisher	From April 2025	The number of applications for support under the councils hardship is likely to increase
All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction and currently	Negative, the maximum award of support under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for resident's current classified as being vulnerable is reducing from 100% to 82.5%.	Residents experiencing financial hardship because of the change will be directed to the Councils Hardship Policy under Section 13A of the Local	Michael Fisher	From April 2025	The number of applications for support under the councils

classed as being Vulnerable		Government Finance Act 1992. The funding under this policy will be doubled to £100k.			hardship is likely to increase
Working Age Claimants in Receipt of Carers allowance	Income from Carers allowance will be disregarded for the first time	n\a	n\a	From April 2025	Work will be required to identify cases; existing resources will be used
Working Age Claimants with Capital in Excess of £6,000	Negative, All Working Age resident with Capital more than £6,000 will no longer qualify for any support. This excludes Capital which would be due to compensation scheme specifically mentioned within HB/UC Regulations.	Residents will capita more than £6,000 will be contacted directly and advised of the change. It is felt that residents should use their own resources prior to falling back on the council for support	Michael Fisher	From April 2025	Work will be required to identify cases; existing resources will be used
All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction	Positive: The scheme has been simplified considerably	n\a	n\a	April 2025	Reduction in administration from an LA perspective
All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction	Positive: The bands in which income are assessed are much wider, as are the tolerances for changes in income, This will result in fewer changes in Council Tax Liability during the year	n\a	Michael Fisher	April 2025	Reduction in administration from an LA perspective
All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction	Positive: Improved processing times once increased automation is progressed	n\a	Nick Dixon	September 2025	Reduction in administration from an LA perspective

All Working Age Residents in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction	Positive: Flat Rate Non-Dependant Deductions making the scheme easier to understand and administer. Reduces the requirement for the supply of information for the claimant	n/a	Michael		Reduction in the information required to support a claim and administration from an LA perspective
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The Council scheme is reviewed on an annual basis by Policy & Resources Committee and approved annually at Council prior to the 11th March

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Not Applicable

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

The council have consulted with residents over the proposals to amend the scheme as well as extensive consultation with senior Councillors and officers.

Details of other council schemes has been researched from across the country, the proposed changes brings Wirral's CTRS scheme into line with the vast majority of Metropolitan and Unitary Councils including the Liverpool City Region.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

Consultation was undertaken via on-line portal, During November and December 2024. Extensive publicity advertising the consultation was undertaken in addition to physical paper invites being sent to all recipients of correspondence (Bills, Letter & Benefit/CTRS Notifications) issued by the council during this period

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**