

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1:

Your details

EIA lead Officer: Jen Smedley – Public Health Operations Resilience Lead

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Head of Section: Julie Webster – Director of Public Health

Chief Officer: Julie Webster – Director of Public Health

Directorate: Public Health

Date: 27th September 2022

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

The impact of cost of living increases in Wirral

Cost-of-living pressures are having impacts on people in every part of our borough. Price rises driven by energy price inflation are having an impact on most households, with those on the lowest incomes likely to be hardest hit (particularly as benefit uplifts fail to keep pace with inflation).

This is a developing proposal and this assessment may be reviewed and amended as impacts become known.

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

Yes / No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Health & Wellbeing Board 29th Sept 2022

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

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)

Partners including 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.

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 Protected Groups	Support currently exists at a local level through the Ask us Wirral contract which is run by Wirral Citizens Advice and Age uk Wirral	Positive – Equality implications are part of the procurement procedures and we expect partners to provide a service which is as accessible as possible	Nicola Jones/ Cost of Living Action Group	For duration of contract	None
All Protected Groups	Expansion of Cost of Living Action Group proposed	Positive – group to be expanded to include Strategic Partners and that a multi-agency partnership summit be organised to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated action plan to support local people	Cost of Living Action Group	Ongoing	None

All protected groups	Proposed that community, voluntary and faith organisations be able to apply for funding for grants to provide support to those in food and or fuel poverty	Positive – Support to be provided at a local level from organisations that have an established network and have the trust of the community. It is hoped that this will make it easier to reach seldom heard groups	Cost of Living Action Group	Ongoing	None
All protected groups	Proposed that Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority(MFRA) enhance their Safe Home Scheme	Positive – To provide a greater reach for the scheme	MFRA	Ongoing	None
All protected groups	A wide ranging, collaborative engagement and communications campaign	Positive – Current communication channels will be utilised alongside Community Champions to promote key messages and signpost. A communications plan will be produced. Negative – We recognise that people may need this information in different languages and formats and we will work to provide this upon request and within a reasonable timeframe.	Jen Smedley	Ongoing	Alternative languages and formats to be provided through Procurement Service

Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Cost of Living Action Group and monitoring activities re Ask us Wirral

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

N/A

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

An extensive piece of engagement collated from resident feedback has been carried out by the qualitative insight team. A copy of the report can be found here:

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/state-of-the-borough/cost-of-living-crisis-2022-23/>

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

Yes / No – (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?

Communications plan to be produced which will be as accessible as possible. Timings to be confirmed.

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?**