

# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

## **Section 1: Your details**

**EIA lead Officer:** Di Gridsale

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**Head of Section:** Daniel Kirwan

**Chief Officer:** Shaer Halewood

**Directorate:** Resources

**Date:** 01 February 2021

## **Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?**

2021/22 Budget option proposal - Reduction of bad debt provision (hardship fund)

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

**Yes/ No**                      **If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**

Policy and Resources Committee 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13797>

<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)

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](mailto: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.

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
All (including Socio-economic)	<p>Positive impact – Residents in receipt of Local Council Tax Scheme (LCTS) have had a reduction on their Council Tax, funded by grant. The grant money and its use is in addition to local council tax support relief.</p> <p>Positive impact – A reduction is evident the debt of those residents in arrears with their Council tax and, also the debt of the council carries on its Collection Fund account and in its balance sheet.</p> <p>Positive impact – Less expected loss accrual needs to be recognised in the Council's accounts which reduces the costs being charged to the outturn revenue position, supporting the annual budget position.</p>	None	Di Grisdale	Proposal is for a revised budget position from April 2021	None

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

Revenue and Benefits Team in respect of debt monitoring  
Policy and Resources Committee and Audit & Risk Management Committee in respect of financial monitoring and statutory accounts reviews

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

The proposal relates to technical accounting entries in respect of assumptions relating to potential debt positions. The adjustment is reflective of additional funding being accessible.

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

Existing debt for Council Tax  
Use of the Hardship fund policy issued by central government  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874867/COVID-19\\_Council\\_Tax\\_Hardship\\_Fund\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874867/COVID-19_Council_Tax_Hardship_Fund_Guidance.pdf)

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

~~Yes~~ / No – (please delete as appropriate)

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

This is a technical budget adjustment at the discretion of the S151 officer

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**