



Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (March 2017)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Alan Lipscombe

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Head of Section: Lisa Newman

Chief Officer: Alan Evans

Directorate: Regeneration and Place

Date: 18th February 2020

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Private Sector Housing and Regeneration Assistance Policy

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

No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

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Please select hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website (please select appropriate link & delete those not relevant)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/economic>

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.

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
Race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership	<u>Positive</u> The policy provides a range of support regardless of protected group category with the exception of Disabled Facilities Grants which are governed by statute and are only available to those individuals who meet specific criteria. However, in order to focus resources, all other support is subject to eligibility criteria, primarily involving low income and health issues (excluding Empty Property Grants) linked to medical care	N/A	A Lipscombe	N/A	None

religion and belief	<p>Positive</p> <p>The interest free Heating and Repair Loans (applicable for works costing over £10,000) avoids any potential conflict with applicants whose religious beliefs forbid the taking out of a loan that incurs interest</p>	N/A	A Lipscombe	N/A	None
Households with a low socioeconomic status	<p>Negative</p> <p>There will potentially be a small number of households of a low socioeconomic status that will no longer be able to easily access credit and do not qualify for replacement boilers through existing schemes due to not being on qualifying welfare benefits, having a household income that is too high to obtain assistance, not meeting the criteria for being in fuel poverty or not having health problems that are affected by cold housing.</p>	<p>These households will be fully supported by the council's contractor Energy Projects Plus to explore all available options as grant scheme eligibility changes frequently. These households will be made aware of the existence of interest-free credit options from boiler manufacturers and installers and the availability of loans from Wirral Credit Union.</p>	Ed Kingsley	Ongoing following the closure of Cosy Loans	None. Is part of the current contract with Energy Projects Plus

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

All service users will be invited to complete and return an equality and diversity questionnaire

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

The policy is primarily targeted on low income households and household members with chronic health conditions deemed to be in need of assistance. Eligibility criteria is imposed in order to ensure that the assistance is focussed on the most vulnerable. The policy does not discriminate against protected groups.

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

Information obtained from customer satisfaction feedback forms and analysis of service take up and efficiency of delivery has been used to inform the proposed policy.

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

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

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

Consultation has already been undertaken with key officers and the Better Care fund lead officer and Board Members (for DFGs based services) on the development of service changes to be operated within the new policy approach. Proposed changes are deemed to be minor on this occasion

(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?

N/A

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?**