

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Council Tax Premium on Long Term Empty Properties		
Directorate	Resource and Transformation		
Service	MHJ		
Responsible Officer	Mark Fearn		
Proposal planning start	September 2018	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	01/04/2019

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy		
	Procedure	Yes	revision
	Guidance		
	External service		
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?		
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	To increase the council tax premium charged on long term empty properties		
3	Who is the proposal likely to affect?		
	People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
	All		Only those people who are liable for council tax on properties subject to the premium
	Specific group/s	Yes	
	Council employees		
	Other (identify)		
4	Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.		
	The proposal is specifically property (not person) related. It is for the increase of the council tax premium charged on long term empty properties. The only residents impacted are those who in the future have a dwelling that has been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 2 years.		



5	Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).																				
	<p>Consultation is non-statutory for this proposal; however it has been undertaken between 24 September and 19 October 2018. A controlled postal survey was carried out with questionnaires mailed to the 250 taxpayers who, at the time, were subject to the premium under review and a random sample of the same number of taxpayers not subject to the premium. This was to ensure that sample included residents who would be directly affected and those that would not.</p>																				
	Consultation Activity																				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Type of engagement/consultation</td> <td>Survey</td> <td>Date</td> <td>24 Sep 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Who attended/participated?</td> <td colspan="3">All council tax payers currently subject to the premium and a random sample, of the same number, of other council tax payers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protected characteristics of participants</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feedback</td> <td colspan="3"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 responses received from 500 letters issued • 27 of those subject to the premium – all voted against increasing the premium • 8 of those not subject to the premium – all voted for increasing the premium </td> </tr> </table>	Type of engagement/consultation	Survey	Date	24 Sep 18	Who attended/participated?	All council tax payers currently subject to the premium and a random sample, of the same number, of other council tax payers			Protected characteristics of participants				Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 responses received from 500 letters issued • 27 of those subject to the premium – all voted against increasing the premium • 8 of those not subject to the premium – all voted for increasing the premium 						
Type of engagement/consultation	Survey	Date	24 Sep 18																		
Who attended/participated?	All council tax payers currently subject to the premium and a random sample, of the same number, of other council tax payers																				
Protected characteristics of participants																					
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 responses received from 500 letters issued • 27 of those subject to the premium – all voted against increasing the premium • 8 of those not subject to the premium – all voted for increasing the premium 																				
6	Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation																				
	Those subject to the premium are not in favour of the increase, whilst those not subject to premium are in favour of the proposed change.																				
7	How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Characteristic</th> <th>Affect</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Action needed Yes / No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td rowspan="11" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Neutral</td> <td rowspan="11" style="vertical-align: top;">The proposal is linked directly to property ownership (i.e. council tax liability) and not targeted at any protected characteristic or group</td> <td rowspan="11" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">N</td> </tr> <tr><td>Disability</td></tr> <tr><td>Gender reassignment</td></tr> <tr><td>Marriage and civil partnership</td></tr> <tr><td>Pregnancy and maternity</td></tr> <tr><td>Race</td></tr> <tr><td>Religion or belief</td></tr> <tr><td>Sex</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual orientation</td></tr> <tr><td>Other (give detail)</td></tr> <tr><td>Further information</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No	Age	Neutral	The proposal is linked directly to property ownership (i.e. council tax liability) and not targeted at any protected characteristic or group	N	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Other (give detail)	Further information		
Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No																		
Age	Neutral	The proposal is linked directly to property ownership (i.e. council tax liability) and not targeted at any protected characteristic or group	N																		
Disability																					
Gender reassignment																					
Marriage and civil partnership																					
Pregnancy and maternity																					
Race																					
Religion or belief																					
Sex																					
Sexual orientation																					
Other (give detail)																					
Further information																					

8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) No
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
	A	No major change required

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail

Contact us

Consultation and Equalities
Change and Governance

Telephone 01922 655797

Textphone 01922 654000

Email equality@walsall.gov.uk

Inside Walsall: http://inside.walsall.gov.uk/equality_and_diversity-7.htm