

1) EIA Author	Pat Siddle
2) Service	ERROR: Intranet and BMS records for this person do not match, or no person record found in BMS.
3) Start date	6/11/12
4) What is this EIA assessing?	Policy
5) What is the subject of your EIA and what do you hope to achieve?	In addition to the Council Tax Support Scheme EIA, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in advance of a full report to Council on 29 November 2012, have requested that a further EIA is carried out taking into consideration the responses from the consultation and also incorporating additional welfare reforms. The EIA is hoping to determine whether the additional welfare reforms will affect the same customer group or further groups not previously highlighted. The additional welfare reforms are; Benefit Cap - Levels of benefit available will be limited (capped) at an amount of £500 per week for couples with or without children and lone parents, and £350 per week for single people. Underoccupancy in social housing - Rent support will be limited based on number of bedrooms required by the household judged by central government regulations. Local housing allowance - to be increased by consumer price index rather than broad market rental area. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) - to replace existing 3 levels of disability living allowance (DLA) to 2 levels of PIP. Universal Credit - Replacing a number of benefits and consolidating them into a single payment direct to the claimant.
6) Which function level EIA(s) does it relate to?	Policy on Council Tax Support
7) Reason for doing this EIA	New policy
8) Who has been involved in writing this EIA?	Pat Siddle Council Tax Manager, Tracy Vasey Assistant Client Manager, Nicole Guillan, Benefit Assessor, Sheena Patterson Team Leader Sundry Income Collections, Michael Wright Equality Officer Unison, Anne Gibb Benefit Team Leader, Jackie Mulvey Corporate Debt Manager.
9) Who have you consulted with when preparing this EIA?	Carried out an eight week consultation exercise which started on 24 August 2012 and ended on 18 October 2012. We consulted in several different ways to ensure maximum coverage; Area forums, Landlord Forum, Face to Face drop-in advice surgeries in customer service centres, A 'Working With' event which involved partner organisations from charitable and voluntary sector. DWP partnership event. Paper questionnaires available at all customer service centres, libraries and sure start centres. A mailshot to 500 claimants. On-line questionnaire, helpline and email contact address. 5000 flyers in council tax bills over the period of the consultation. Through providing a broad spectrum of consultation methods not only were views from claimants provided but also from non-claimants, landlords and other organisations.
10) What other evidence is your EIA based on?	Based on other government proposals and additional welfare reform changes which may have an impact on the same customer group. Consultation responses over the 8 week period indicated 53% agreed/strongly agreed that council tax support should be based on 80% rather than 100%. 69% agreed/strongly agreed that the council scheme should operate within the reduced grant. 28% disagreed/strongly disagreed that non dependant charges should increase by 20%. 83% agreed/strongly agreed that the council scheme should be based on the income of the person(s) liable to pay council tax.
11) What further consultation or evidence is required? What will be done to collect this?	If the proposed scheme is changed/amended significantly then further consultation may be required.
12) How does this EIA link to the corporate equality scheme 2010 - 2013 objectives?	1 - To increase corporate and partner knowledge of diverse and minority community needs 2 - To have clear and effective processes for equality and diversity work, which meet corporate and service needs and involve internal and external stakeholders 3 - To increase the engagement and involvement of diverse and minority communities, to inform and improve service planning, delivery and review 6 - To work together with our partners on delivering more effective and equal outcomes for all our residents
13) How will the Policy be monitored?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people participating • New people participating • Customer feedback • Staff feedback
14) What is currently being done to reduce any negative impacts relating to this Policy?	Report to full council for decision on 29 November 2012.
15) What are the potential positive and negative impacts of your Policy on these characteristics?	

Age

Potential positive impact(s):	Pensioners will not be affected by the Council Tax Support and the additional welfare reform changes as all pensioners will be protected.
Potential negative impact(s):	All working age claimants will be negatively affected by Council Tax Support changes and potentially will be additionally affected by other welfare reforms. Benefit Cap - Current estimates indicate 32 claimants will be affected by between £3.14 and £286.00 per week. Underoccupancy - Current estimates indicate 3,000 claimants will be affected by between £8.90 and £34.47 per week. There will also be people affected by the changes to personal independence payments but as this is not administered by the LA figures are unavailable.
What evidence have you based this judgement on?	Based on analysis of current caseload and household make-up.

No actions have been entered in this category yet.

Disability

Potential positive impact(s):

Potential negative impact(s):

The scheme continues to recognise the additional financial burden of disability through allowances and premiums within the means test, however there is still an expectation that those of working age will make some contribution to council tax. Changes to replace disability living allowance with personal independence payments may remove and reduce payments to some disabled groups.

What evidence have you based this judgement on?

Government proposals to amend eligibility criteria and change from a 3 tier system to 2.

No actions have been entered in this category yet.

Gender

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to gender this may require monitoring once the scheme is fully in place.

Race

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to race this may require monitoring once the scheme is fully in place.

Religion / Belief

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to religion/belief.

Sexual Orientation

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to sexual orientation.

Maternity / Pregnancy

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to maternity/pregnancy.

Marriage / Civil Partnership

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to marriage/civil partnership.

Gender Reassignment

This characteristic is not relevant for this EIA because:

Based on existing data there is no apparent evidence of negative impact in relation to gender reassignment.

16) Considering the findings of this EIA, your requires

No change

17) Please specify why.

Council decision to be taken on 29 November 2012.

18) When will this EIA need to be reviewed?

Following council decision.