

Equality Impact Assessment



Assessment Of: Council Tax Second Home and Empty Property premiums	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Community Services and Improvement	Assessment carried out by: Nikki Rawley
Service Area: Revenue and Benefits	Job Role: Council Tax Lead Officer
Version / Date of Sign Off by Director:	

Step 1: What do we want to do?

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the Policy Officer early for advice.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

Implementation of proposals to introduce Council Tax Premiums on second homes and properties that remain unoccupied and unfurnished for periods exceeding 1 year; as detailed in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (the Bill). The legislation to allow such changes to be introduced remains subject to the Bill obtaining Royal Assent, and the changes will not be implemented until 1 April 2024 at the earliest.

The proposals introduce new legislation to apply additional Council Tax premiums on second homes and properties that have been empty for a period of more than 1 year.

The proposals will generate additional Council Tax revenue for precepting bodies; facilitating the delivery of essential front-line services within Teignbridge, including potential further investment to address local housing supply. The key rationale for the recommendations is to:

- Implement a consistent policy approach for empty property and second home premiums across the whole of the Devon area as many of neighbouring Authorities are aiming to adopt these proposals.
- Incentivise the occupation of empty properties
- Discourage, or generate additional income from, second home ownership in order to ensure the supply of homes to meet local housing needs.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community	<input type="checkbox"/> Teignbridge workforce
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1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by your manager.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment.

Yes No [please select]

Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics (listed in 2.2).

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data - from national research, local data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there are any over or under representation of equality groups within your service - don't forget to benchmark to local population where appropriate.

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected team(s) using available evidence such as the employee profile data. Identify any under/over-representation compared with Teignbridge's economically active citizens for age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion/belief and sexual orientation.

Data / Evidence Source [Include a reference where known]	Summary of what this tells us
LGA Research report - Basic Facts About Teignbridge Basic facts about your chosen area (esd.org.uk)	Details the demography of the Teignbridge District in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Age • Ethnicity • Health • Employment • Education
LGA Research Report- Demographic Report LGA Research Report - Demographic Report LG Inform (local.gov.uk)	Provides further detail on population changes in Teignbridge, and demographic information relating to gender and ethnicity in Teignbridge with comparisons to the percentage figures for the South West and all English Local authority areas in totality
The Homelessness Monitor: England 2022 Homelessness Monitor 2022 England Crisis UK	The Homelessness Monitor: England 2022, published by Crisis, is the latest report in a longitudinal study providing independent analysis of the homelessness impacts of recent economic and policy developments in England. This tenth annual report by Heriot-Watt University, providing an account of how homelessness stands in England in 2021, or as close to 2021 as data availability allows. It also highlights emerging trends and forecasts some of the likely future changes, identifying the developments likely to have the most significant impacts on homelessness.
Additional comments:	

2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

Age Disability Gender Reassignment
 Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy/Maternity Race

Religion or Belief

Sex

Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don't have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn't mean that you can't complete the assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps please state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant information on characteristics may need to be sought from HR (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require action to address and identify the information needed.

We do not hold data on protected characteristics for council tax purposes.

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this has been of Teignbridge's diverse communities.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to HR for advice on how to consult and engage with employees. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups, trades unions as well as affected staff.

No groups specifically affected

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Consultation Officer for help in targeting particular groups.

No particular groups have been identified that we will need to engage with.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact **all or many groups**)

The changes to policy will apply to all taxpayers who have dwellings which meet the criteria irrespective of whether they have any protected characteristics or not.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Age: Young People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	

OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS

Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	<p>Second Home ownership is acknowledged to drive up house prices in popular areas, and as a result long-term local residents can find themselves priced out of the local housing market. This may particularly affect those living in idyllic rural and coastal areas within Teignbridge. The proposals to apply Council Tax premiums on second homes should help to address this issue, or create additional Council Tax funding to support local housing supply.</p> <p>It will generate revenue to the Council to enable it to deliver our services to the wider population.</p> <p>Tourism destinations with higher concentrations of second home ownership will be most affected.</p> <p>The implementation of premiums for second and empty homes may serve to bring property back into use for the benefit of the wider Teignbridge community.</p>
Mitigations:	
Other group(s) <i>Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other</i>	

relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Rural/Urban Communities, Homelessness, Digital Exclusion, Access To Transport	
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations:	

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people on the basis of their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

Increasing housing supply locally and bringing properties back into the currently short supply of local private rental sector has the potential to benefit a broad spectrum of groups who have protected characteristics, or who have been particularly impacted by the shortage of affordable homes in Teignbridge including but not limited to:

- Those of working age and on relatively low incomes who are adversely impacted by the 'rent gap'.
- Those with specific mobility issues who may struggle to find accommodation, which is both affordable, and suitable, according to their needs.
- Those who require alternative accommodation because they have been subject to domestic violence, abuse or harassment.
- Local residents who have refugee status.

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This content should be used as a summary in reports, where this full assessment is included as an appendix.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary and appropriate despite this.

Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:
There are no negative impacts, or potential for discrimination
Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:
The potential for bringing empty or largely unused properties back into use for the benefit of the wider Teignbridge community

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective and your approach is still appropriate. Include the timescale for review in your action plan above.

Step 5: Review & Sign-Off

EIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek review and feedback from management before requesting it to be signed off. All working drafts of EIAs and final signed-off EIAs should be saved in G:\GLOBAL\EIA Once signed-off please add the details to the 'EIA Register' of all council EIAs saved in the same directory.

<p>Reviewed by Service Manager: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Hooper – Service Lead for Revenue, Benefits and Customer Support No <input type="checkbox"/> Instead was reviewed by:</p>	<p>Strategic Leadership Team Sign-Off:</p>
<p>Date: 15.12.22</p>	<p>Date:</p>