

## Equality Impact Assessment - Optional EqlA Review

Reference: EQIA162742753

Submitted: 29 January 2020 12:15 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** 2020/21 Council Tax Sharing Agreement

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** To propose a two year Council Tax Sharing Agreement and to request a draw down from the Transformation Reserve to undertake collaborative work on reviewing the Business Rates tax base. Endorse a policy to be adopted by the district councils to utilise their discretionary powers to eliminate the council tax liability of care leavers up to the age of 21.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Transform the council to achieve more with less

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Transform the council to achieve more with less:** Limit cost and drive growth in revenue

**Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?:** a new policy (or decision)

**Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqlA relates:** FP/942/10/12 and FP/837/10/14 AND fp/394/03/19

**Please upload any documents which relate to this EqlA, for example decision documents:** FP/942/10/12 and FP/837/10/14 AND fp/394/03/19

### Assessing the equality impact

**Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision):** The decision impacts on the funding available to district councils. This scheme helps the districts to support the most vulnerable groups of the community to pay their council tax bills. There has been ongoing dialogue with the districts.

This investment provides funding to the districts for additional staff resources to support their Local Council Tax Support Scheme, including the provision of a Hardship Fund and to identify fraud.

Districts run their own Local Council Tax Support scheme and are subject to their own governance.

There is no negative impact on specific protected groups - this could affect anyone in the wider population.

The endorsement of the policy to be adopted by districts councils to provide care leavers an exemption from Council Tax will have a positive impact on those who fall into this group.

**Does or will the policy or decision affect:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** Yes

**The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities:** Yes

**Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?:** All Essex

**Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?:** No

**Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?:** No

**Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?:** Yes

## Description of impact

**Description of Impact.** If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Age, No impact on any of the above groups

**I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics:** I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

## Age

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** The council tax liability of care leavers up to the age of 21 will be eliminated.

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** This will apply to care leavers only.

## Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

**Does your EqlA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?:** No

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date EqlA completed:** 29/01/2020

**Name of person completing the EqlA:** Elizabeth Helm

**Email address of person completing the EqlA:** Elizabeth.Helm@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Corporate and Customer Services

**Your service area:** Finance

**Your team:** Strategic Finance and Insight

**Are you submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** tina.french@essex.gov.uk