

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA401046460

Submitted: 14 February 2022 15:28 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Freeport East – Supporting the Submission of Full Business Case to HM Government

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): Approval of the recommendations would see ECC providing a letter of support to accompany the Final Business Case for Freeport East to HM Government, providing support for the high-level arrangements for distribution of retained business rates income and for the proposed governance model.

This would increase the chance of the Final Business Case being accepted by HM Government, granting access to all of the available economic development levers to support economic growth and shared prosperity. There is a greater probability that greater / accelerated social, economic and environmental benefits would be secured for Essex residents and businesses, if the funding gap can be closed.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Enable inclusive economic growth: Good jobs, Infrastructure, Green growth, Levelling up the economy

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work: Levelling up health

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 EqIA relates:

<https://essexcountycouncil.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CabinetOfficial/ESKI-WQsrzhLrPLgWCrrsxoB4o2T55kcGBKgl4ZmNZDeTQ?e=Noqmuk>

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:

<https://essexcountycouncil.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CabinetOfficial/ESKI-WQsrzhLrPLgWCrrsxoB4o2T55kcGBKgl4ZmNZDeTQ?e=Noqmuk>

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 retained business rates proposed principles specifically intends to tackle inequality by bringing additional funding into the most deprived areas in Tendring. It will aim to fund improvements in physical access, skills and employment support for these deprived areas.

There is no negative impact on ECC services relating to promoting equality/tackling inequality from any loss of rates as standard council business rate retention is protected within the principles.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: No

Employees: No

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?: Braintree, Colchester, Tendring

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?: No

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

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, Gender / sex

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

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: No negative impacts are expected as there will be no loss in expected income for ECC from business rates.

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Retained rates could be used to fund infrastructure that can help to bring improved employment and skills access for all groups across Tendring, especially Harwich and Clacton/Jaywick. Given the levels of deprivation in Tendring, ECC will seek to ensure that all residents benefit from these interventions and particular focus will be given to providing access to deprived communities.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The positive impacts of Freeport East and retained rates could be significant however, further modelling is needed to be clear on the extent of these impacts. Medium impact has therefore been selected.

Gender / sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Retained rates could be used to fund infrastructure that can help to bring improved employment and skills access for all groups across Tendring, especially Harwich and Clacton/Jaywick. Given the levels of deprivation in Tendring, ECC will seek to ensure that all residents benefit from these interventions and particular focus will be given to providing access to deprived communities.

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Medium impact has therefore been selected.

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: 14/02/2022

Name of person completing the EqlA: Stephen Turner

Email address of person completing the EqlA: Stephen.Turner@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: Economic Growth and Localities

Your team: Economic Infrastructure

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

Email address of Head of Service: Andrew.Burgess2@essex.gov.uk