

## Brief Equality Impact Assessment Appendix C (4)

### For a minor operational change / review / simple analysis

What is being assessed?	<b>Potential changes to the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme: Specifically reducing the period that a claim can be backdated from six months to one month and the removal of family premiums for new claimants.</b>	What are the key aims of it?	The Council has a statutory duty to adopt a Council Tax Support Scheme in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 2012. The aim of the scheme is to specify reductions in the Council Tax bills for people whom the council considers to be in financial need. Any changes to the scheme must be consulted on.			
Who may be affected by it?	Current and future CTS claimants in Stevenage		The Government made these proposed changes to the Housing Benefit scheme from 2016, and this proposal re-aligns the two schemes.			
Date of full EqIA on service area (planned or completed)	November 2012					
Form completed by:	Su Tarran Emma Barron	Start date	May 2016	End date	December 2016	
		Review date		As needed		

What data / information are you using to inform your assessment?	<p>The Council holds information about Council Tax Support claimants and other residents in the property, which is required for the purposes of calculating and paying benefit. This includes some information about age, disability, gender, and pregnancy and maternity, but only in cases where that information is needed to work out entitlement to benefit.</p> <p>No information is routinely held about the other protected characteristics of race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion and belief.</p>	Have any information gaps been identified along the way? If so, please specify	These proposals will be consulted upon in the summer and we will be seeking relevant profile information from respondents. This is particularly important for participants who are current CTS claimants, so that we can assess how they may be affected.
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Explain the <b>potential positive, negative or unequal impact</b> on the following characteristics and <b>how likely</b> this is:			
Age	Positive impact on pensioners who will not be affected. The proposals will only affect working-age claimants.	Race	Equal impact
Disability	Equal impact	Religion or belief	Equal impact
Gender reassignment	Equal impact	Sex	Equal impact
Marriage or civil partnership	Equal impact	Sexual orientation	Equal impact
Pregnancy & maternity	Equal impact	Socio-economic <sup>1</sup>	Applies to those in receipt of Council Tax support – so by definition these would affect people facing socio-economic disadvantage.
Other	Other than age and socio-economic, the proposals will not affect people based on any other protected characteristic.		

Where there is a likely <b>positive impact</b> , please explain how it will help to <b>fulfil our legislative duties</b> to:				
Remove discrimination & harassment		Promote equal opportunities		Encourage good relations

### What further work / activity is needed as a result of this assessment?

Action	Responsible officer	How will this be delivered and monitored?	Deadline
Consider the findings of consultation in the summer 2016.	Su Tarran	Report of findings prepared by the Senior Corporate Policy Officer to inform the decision on the proposals.	October 2016

**Approved by Head of Service / Strategic Director:**

**Date:**

<sup>1</sup>Although non-statutory, the council has chosen to implement the Socio-Economic Duty and so decision-makers should use their discretion to consider the impact on people with a socio-economic disadvantage.

