



Ref No: EQ489439495

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Title of report: Revised Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme

Report : The Council Tax Reduction (Working Age) Scheme is a local scheme that looks to reduce the amount of Council Tax that residents on low incomes have to pay. The Scheme has been in operation since 2013. Since 2018 the maximum reduction a customer could receive was 95%. It is proposed that the scheme be amended from 1st April 2023 to offer up to 100% reduction for the most financially vulnerable customers.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations

Service area: SRP (Benefits, Business Support)

Corporate Manager: Shirley Jarlett

Corporate Manager email: Shirley.Jarlett@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

Please upload any supporting documents: IBC CTR Scheme - Full Survey Results.docx

What is proposed?: Increasing the maximum Council Tax Reduction from 95% to 100% of Council Tax charge.

Why are the changes being introduced?: To provide additional financial support to low-income households,

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: I have attached the results of the public consultation. 72% of respondents supported the move to 100% reduction. This revised scheme will align with the Governments Prescribed Scheme for persons of Pension Age so that all customers can receive up to 100% Council Tax Reduction.

How will this change be implemented?: A change to the scheme parameters from 1st April 2023 which will allow for the Council Tax bills for 2023/24 to show increased levels of reduction.

Age: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to low-income households. The Scheme applies to working age households but now aligns to the level of reduction available since 2013 to persons of pension age. Age is no longer a factor in determining entitlement to CTR for Council Tax liable individuals.

Disability: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households. The Universal Credit Income Banded Scheme only requires persons who are employed to make a contribution. No other income is taken into account. For customers not in receipt of Universal Credit, the scheme mirrors the Department for Work and Pension applicable amounts and disregards. This allows for most disability income to be disregarded.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Race: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Pregnancy & Maternity: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Religion or Belief: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Gender Reassignment: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Sex: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

Sexual Orientation: Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The revised CTR Scheme increases the level of reduction available to all low-income households.

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s): All customers are treated equally. This is a means-tested scheme which compares household income with Council Tax liability.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): All customers have the ability to make a claim and receive help with their Council Tax bill.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): This scheme supports low-income households and has public support - particularly during the cost of living crisis.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s): The application and cost of the scheme will be reviewed and reported upon on a monthly basis. The schemes Income Bands and Contribution Rates will be reviewed annually as part of the Council Tax setting exercise to ensure that the level of support offered is maintained.
