



**IPSWICH**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

# *Consent to consult on proposed changes to the Ipswich Borough Council Council Tax Reduction Scheme from April 2018*

**Ref:** EQIA2017101219

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**Title of report:** Consent to consult on proposed changes to the Ipswich Borough Council Council Tax Reduction Scheme from April 2018

**Reference:** EQIA2017101219

### **What is the report trying to achieve?:**

The Report seeks to implement a number of Government Requirements that affect the Pension Age Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme but not the Working Age CTR Scheme. These changes have include:

- a. Removal of the Family Premium for new claims;
- b. Backdating restrictions;
- c. Changes to eligibility for non-UK Citizens;
- d. Temporary absence changes;

The Report also seeks to implement the limitation to 2 children for new means tested Working Age CTR which affects new HB claims from April 2017, but the Government have made no similar change to Pensioner CTR.

The Report then seeks to:

- a. Increase the maximum CTR award;
- b. Introduce a minimum CTR award
- c. Make changes to accommodate Universal Credit

**What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis?:**

Customers complaints/comments, Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report, Analysis of service data (e.g I-card)

**Supporting documents (if available):**

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**Is there potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?**

- **Age:** *Negative*
- **Disability:** *Negative*
- **Marriage & Civil Partnership:** *No Impact*
- **Race:** *No Impact*
- **Pregnancy & Maternity:** *Negative*
- **Religion or Belief:** *No Impact*
- **Gender Reassignment:** *No Impact*
- **Sex:** *No Impact*
- **Sexual Orientation:** *No Impact*

**If 'No Impact' explain why**

The Working Age CTR Scheme does not separately impact people by:

Marital status;

Race;

Religion or Belief;

Gender Reassignment;

Sex; or

Sexual Orientation

However, a disproportionately high number of people with a disability or who are pregnant are reliant upon Benefits, including CTR

The Working Age CTR Scheme, by definition, affects only Working Age claimants.

**If you have identified any negative impacts (above) how can they be minimised or removed?**

The negative impact would be reduction or loss of CTR, particularly upon making a new claim. Any such negative impacts can be ameliorated by award of Discretionary Financial Assistance (DFA)

There will also be an overall positive impact due to increasing the maximum CTR percentage from 91.5% to 95% which will affect all claimants.

**The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):**

By equalising the conditions for Working Age CTR with those for Pension Age CTR so that Pensioners are not adversely affected as compared to those of Working Age.

By applying the Family Premium and 2 child restriction to Working Age CTR Claims so that those claiming other Benefits are not disadvantaged

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):** By ensuring all claimants to Benefits are treated equally.

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):** By ensuring all claimants to Benefits are treated equally.