

# Equality Impact Assessment – Introduction of Empty Homes Premium Appendix 2

## Name and job title of completing officer

John Nightingale, Head of Revenues and Benefits

### 1. Summary of Proposal, impact on groups with protected characteristics and mitigating actions

**a) What is your proposal?** The introduction of an empty homes premium on properties empty over two years. The premium being an additional 50% of the annual council tax liability for properties empty between 2 and 5 years, with a 100% premium for those empty for longer than 5 years.

Initial calculations suggested that only 255 properties would be impacted by the introduction of the premium, out of these 44 have been empty for over 5 years

#### **b) Impact on groups with protected characteristics and mitigating actions**

none identified

#### **c) Summarise any potential negative impact(s) identified and mitigating actions**

n/a

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## 2. Assessing impact

<p>You are required to undertake a detailed analysis of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. You should refer to borough profile data, equalities data, service user information, consultation responses and any other relevant data/evidence to help you assess and explain what impact (if any) your proposal(s) will have on each group. Where there are gaps in data, you should state this in the boxes below and what action (if any), you will take to address this in the future.</p>	<p>What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics? Click the relevant box to indicate whether your proposal will have a positive impact, negative (minor, major) or no impact</p>
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Protected characteristics	For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis.	Positive impact	Minor impact	Major impact	No Impact
Age	This proposal is only affecting the empty properties. Where the property has been left as the resident is receiving care which may be due to age then this policy change will not affect them as there is a council tax exemption which applies. Council tax is only payable by persons over the age of 18. Age is not held on the council tax system unless noted as an indicator of vulnerability. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers age.				✓
Disability	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been empty for 2 years or more. This should allow any customers who need additional support to sell or rent their 2 <sup>nd</sup> time property to get this in place. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers disability. A customers disability will only be held on the council tax records if they are: - a) claiming a disabled band reduction which is only applicable on occupied properties b) claiming a discount as a carer of someone else in the property which is only applicable on occupied properties c) Claiming a discount as severely mentally impaired which is only applicable on occupied properties.				✓
Gender assignment	This proposal is only affecting empty properties. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers gender reassignment. This information is not held on the council tax records				✓

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Marriage and civil partnership	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years. Whilst a council taxpayers title may be held on our records, this policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers marital or civil partnership status.				✓
Pregnancy and maternity	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers pregnancy or maternity status. This information is not held on the council tax records unless it has been noted as indicator of vulnerability.				✓
Race/Ethnicity	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers race/ethnicity. This information is not held on the council tax records.				✓
Religion or belief	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers religion or belief. This information is not held on the council tax records.				✓
Sex	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years				✓
Sexual Orientation	This proposal is only affecting empty properties where they have been for 2 or more years. This policy is dependent on the length of time the property has remained empty not on a council tax payers sexual orientation. This information is not held on the council tax records.				✓

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## 3. Actions to mitigate/remove negative impact

In the table below, please state what these potential negative impact(s) are, mitigating actions and steps taken to ensure that these measures will address and remove any negative impacts identified and by when. Please also state how you will monitor the impact of your proposal once implemented.

State what the negative impact(s) are for each group identified in section 2. In addition, you should also consider and state potential risks associated with your proposal.	Measures to mitigate negative impact (provide details, including details of and additional consultation undertaken/to be carried out in the future). If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation	What action(s) will you take to assess whether these measures have addressed and removed any negative impacts identified in your analysis? Please provide details. If you have previously stated that you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact please state below.	Deadline date	Lead Officer
Not applicable				

Signed: John Nightingale, Head of Revenues & Benefits  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2019