

Equality Impact Assessment – Introduction of Empty Homes Premium Appendix 2

Name and job title of completing officer

Jayne Carpenter, Revenues and Benefits Manager

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

a) What is your proposal? To increase the Empty Homes Premium from the financial year 2023/24 to 100% for properties empty longer than 2 years, increasing to 200% where the property has been empty for 5 years and 300% when the property has been empty over 10 years.

Initial calculations suggested that 335 properties would be impacted by the increase in the premium of which 89 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

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| <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 nd 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 | | | | ✓ |

Equality Impact Assessment – Introduction of Empty Homes Premium Appendix 2

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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

Only complete this section if your assessment (in section 2) suggests that your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. If you have not identified any negative impacts, please complete sections 4 and 5.

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 |
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Signed: Jayne Carpenter, Revenue and Benefits Manager

Date: 6 October 2022