

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: 11/5/22	Directorate: Resources		Section: Resources
1. Activity to be assessed	Bracknell Forest Energy Rebate Discretionary Fund		
2. What is the activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change		
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing		
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Stuart McKellar		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Claudia Trott, Katie Flint, Harjit Hunjan		
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>The Government has made available through local authorities additional funding of £150 to pay to households living in Band A – D properties with responsibility for energy bills. Local billing authorities were also allocated discretionary grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with allocations based on Indices of Deprivation and numbers of households receiving council tax support in council tax band E – H. The funding aims to support households worst affected by the increase in energy bills. Individual local authorities are responsible for how the discretionary funding is disbursed to residents. This can either be distributed to households in council tax bands E-H or used to top up the council tax rebate payments to vulnerable households in bands A-D.</p>		
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>Vulnerable households impacted by the increase in energy bills.</p> <p>In the first instance it is being recommended that the funding is used to offer one off payments to the following cohorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All working age and pensioner council tax support claimants occupying properties in Bands E to H, approximately 300 households. • Care leavers aged 18 – 25, approximately 150 individuals. <p>Individuals from these cohorts will be invited to apply to receive this funding. The Members Welfare Advisory Group will consider further groups to be supported by the grant, using insight from the LIFT software.</p>		
Protected Characteristics	<p>Please tick yes or no</p>	<p>Is there an impact?</p> <p>What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both?</p> <p>If the impact is neutral please give a reason.</p>	<p>What evidence do you have to support this?</p> <p>E.g equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc</p> <p>Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality monitoring data</p>

<p>8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.</p>	Y		<p>This support will have a slight positive impact to this characteristic</p>	<p>National and local data demonstrates that disabled households and those with poor health are at higher risk of poverty. The poverty rate for a disabled adult is 38% compared with 17% for adults who are not disabled. Residents facing hardship and poverty are those that are eligible for this support and therefore there is likely to be a greater proportion of residents with a disability receiving this support than the wider population.</p>
<p>9. Racial equality</p>	Y		<p>This support will have a slight positive impact to this characteristic</p>	<p>National and local data shows that ethnic minority groups have higher rates of poverty. Poverty rates in BAME households are 38% compared with 19% for white households. Residents who are facing hardship are those that are eligible for this support and therefore there is likely to be a greater proportion of residents from an ethnic minority receiving this support than the wider population.</p>
<p>10. Gender equality</p>		N	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.</p>
<p>11. Sexual orientation equality</p>		N	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.</p>
<p>12. Gender re-assignment</p>		N	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.</p>
<p>13. Age equality</p>	Y		<p>Pension age individuals will benefit disproportionately from this fund.</p>	<p>There is a greater proportion of pension age individuals claiming council tax support, than reflected in the wider population. Therefore, this fund will have a positive impact on a greater number of pension age individuals.</p>

14. Religion and belief equality		N	Neutral	There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality		N	Neutral	There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality		N	Neutral	There is no anticipated impact to this characteristic.
17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	Individuals on low income will benefit from the Discretionary Fund as it is aimed to support households hardest hit by increasing energy and living costs. Eligibility to receive the funding includes households in receipt of council tax support in council tax bands E-H. These are households that have a low income. Additionally, care leavers will benefit from the funding.			
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	No adverse or negative impacts have been identified.			
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	The scheme is likely to positively impact hundreds of households across the borough who are in financial hardship. It is estimated that around 650 households will be eligible to receive a direct payment to support them with their energy bills.			
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?		N		
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	The council is required to monitor and report how the funding is allocated and spent.			
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N		
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.				
Action		Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria

Consider multiple formats for applying to the scheme including digital and non-digital.	July 2022	Stuart McKellar	All individuals wishing to apply can do so.
Notify individuals of eligibility via post to reduce reliance on digital.	July 2022	Stuart McKellar	All eligible individual notified of how to apply.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Resources		
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	<p>Considered a range of cohorts.</p> <p>Mapped other support/funding currently available to cohorts including through the Household Support Fund.</p>		
26. Assistant Director/Director signature.	<p>Signature: </p>		Date: 13/5/22