

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Customer Focus

Head of Service: Sarah Higgins

Lead Officer: Julie Dark

Date of Assessment: 30/11/2021

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Julie Dark

Email address: Julie.dark@northdevon.gov.uk

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:

Council Tax Discounts

Brief description of proposal to be assessed:

The report seeks to confirm Council Tax Discounts relating to certain properties for the financial year commencing 1 April 2022. The recommendations are that members recommend the Council makes the following determinations in relation to the classes of dwellings set out below for the financial year commencing 1 April 2022:- Class A and Class B (Unoccupied and furnished properties) set a 0% discount, thereby levying full council tax. Class C (Unoccupied and substantially unfurnished properties) set a discount of 100%, for up to three months. Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over two years, levy the empty home premium of 200% of the normal liability. Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over five years, levy the empty home premium of 300% of the normal liability. Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished or over ten years, levy the empty home premium of 400% of the normal liability.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: 1 April 2022

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Class A and B	Set a 0% discount, thereby levying full council tax.	Set a 0% discount, thereby levying full council tax.	No change
Class C	Set a discount of 100%, for up to three months.	Set a discount of 100%, for up to three months.	No change
Click or tap here to enter text.	Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over two years, levy the empty home premium of 200% of the normal liability.	Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over two years, levy the empty home premium of 200% of the normal liability.	No change
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over five years, levy the empty home premium of 300% of the normal liability.	No change
		Properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over ten years, levy the empty home premium of 400% of the normal liability.	No change

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics)

Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Increased levy's on long term empty/unfurnished properties would hopefully have a positive effect on available housing by bringing these properties back into the housing market or failing this increase in Council Tax collection. We have considered those in the equality groups and are satisfied that this report/decision would have no effect or repercussions on those groups. Therefore there is a neutral impact.

Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

The alternative would be not to introduce these additional charges. These charges are designed to encourage owners to bring much needed empty and unoccupied properties back into the housing market.

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

N/A

Funding Considerations:

No funding required, these arrangements are already in place

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

December 2022

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

Annual monitory/Government returns

Date approved by Head of Service: 02/12/2021

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC
Website: 06/12/2021