

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Customer Focus

Head of Service: Sarah Higgins

Lead Officer: Julie Dark

Date of Assessment: 08/03/2022

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:

Discretionary Business Rates Relief/COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: The adoption of the policy for the granting of COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (this is a discretionary rate relief)

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: April 2022

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
To adopt a new policy for the granting of COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund to local businesses	N/A this is a new discretionary rate relief. Funding has been provided by Central Government for distribution to businesses for the financial year 2021/2022 only	To automatically award 50% relief to businesses who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and who have not received other COVID-19 related help with their business rates. This relief is to be capped at £20K	A list of excluded businesses has been prepared in conjunction with Devon Council of businesses who would appear not to have been adversely affected by COVID-19. A 10% contingency will be administered on a case by case basis to those businesses who feel that they have been affected.

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:

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 distribute this funding which clearly would have a negative effect on local businesses

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:

Consultation with SMT who approved the approach as detailed in the policy.

Funding Considerations:

Funding and new burdens funding has been received from Central Government and will cover the cost of this scheme, including the administration and cost of additional software.

Date approved by Head of Service: 08/03/2022

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.

N/A this is a one off exercise

Monitoring Arrangements:

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

Fortnightly financial monitoring

Date approved by Head of Service: 08/03/2022

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC
Website: 10/03/2022