

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Integrated Impact Assessment

(includes Equalities, Welsh Language, Sustainability and Biodiversity)



Before completing the Impact Assessment **PLEASE REFER TO THE CORRESPONDING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT** which provides essential background information.

An Integrated Impact Assessment **MUST** be completed for:

1. Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
2. Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.
3. For any Council / Cabinet report that is not part of an above mentioned project or significant change.

Title of Project / Report:	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020-21
Officer completing Impact Assessment:	Elizabeth French
Lead Officer / Project Manager:	Elizabeth French
Service:	Revenues and Benefits
Impact Assessment completion date:	19/12/2019

Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:

The Council Tax Reduction schemes (default scheme) (Wales) Regulation 2013 require that each Local Authority adopt the default scheme with annual amendments for each year by 31st January preceding the start date of 1st April.

This proposal is to fulfil this requirement.

1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives

Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives identified below?

Well-being Objectives	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
<p><u>Best Start to Life</u> Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p>	Y			Financial Assistance to lower income families can relieve monetary stress and positively impact on the home environment	
<p><u>Working Life</u> People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.</p>	Y			CTR provides low income householders with means tested financial assistance to pay Council Tax charges	Promotion of the scheme on LA website through partner organisations e.g RSL's, other departments and on Council Tax Demand notice
<p><u>Environmental Well-being</u> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p>			Y		
<p><u>Living Well</u> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	Y			CTR provides low income householders with means tested financial assistance to pay Council Tax charges	Promotion of the scheme on LA website through partner organisations e.g RSL's, other departments and on Council Tax Demand notice
<p>Sources of evidence to support the above:</p>					

2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
Long Term - Thinking and planning for the long term.	<i>The CTR scheme is pan Wales and the LA has limited flexibility amend any element. As such we cannot confirm that the scheme will be in operation in the same way year on year due to the considerations of Welsh Government ministers</i>	
Prevention - Preventing problems before they happen.	<i>By adopting the scheme we are able to ensure tht low income households are able to access financial support to help with Council Tax payments</i>	
Integration - Integrating with other strategies.	<i>As a section we actively work with other departments within the LA and other external organisations including RSL's to promote CTR</i>	
Collaboration - Collaborating with others.	<i>As a section we actively work with other departments within the LA and other external organisations including RSL's to promote CTR</i>	
Involvement - Involving people and communities.	<i>CTR is available to all householders with a council tax liability who qualify following means testing. Consultation was undertaken on the three flexible elements following which the decision was to retain the default scheme as published.</i>	

Sources of evidence to support the above -

The Council Tax Reduction schemes (default scheme) (Wales) Regulation 2013

3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Age	Y				
Disability	Y				
Gender Reassignment	Y				
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Y				
Pregnancy and Maternity	Y				
Race	Y				
Religion or Belief	Y				
Sex (Gender)					

Protected Characteristics	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
	Y				
Sexual Orientation	Y				
Welsh Language	Y				
Sources of evidence to support the above - The Council Tax Reduction schemes (default scheme) (Wales) Regulation 2013					

4. Biodiversity

Does your proposal directly impact on Biodiversity? N/A

Biodiversity	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box			Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation	What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts?
	Positive	Negative	N/A		
Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience			X		
Sources of evidence to support the above:					

5. Summary

As a result of completing this Impact Assessment, how many positive and negative impacts does your proposal have? This section should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

Please see the example provided in the **guidance document**.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	4 of 4		
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5		
3. Protected Characteristics (<i>including Welsh Language</i>)	10 of 10		
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1		1 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impacts are ... the provision of financial assistance to low income families and individuals to pay their Council Tax demands.</p> <p>The main negative impacts are ...N/A</p>			

6. Actions

Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts, identified in Section 5 above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts.

What are you going to do?	Estimated completion date	Who will be responsible?	Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc.	Progress

7. Version Control

The Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in the sustainable development principles where possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1.	Submission of report	19/12/2019	none

8. Sign off section

Approved by: Elizabeth French

Job Title: Benefits Manager

Approval date: 06/01/2020