

INITIAL SCREENING – STAGE 1 (See Guidance information)

As a public authority we need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity.

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a Full Equality Assessment is required.

Name of policy, strategy or function: Discretionary Hardship Payment scheme within the localised Council Tax Support scheme.	Ref: cbDHP
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Responsible Officer: Clive Biddlestone	Role: Equality Assessment Task Group
Directorate: Corporate Resources	Assessment Date: 8 March 2013

Is

Heating
Food
Hygiene

In assessing basic and essential needs we will take into consideration the claimants age, health and status.

A Discretionary Hardship Payment scheme limited to £1m will be provided by the City Council.

The demand for assistance is expected to significantly outstrip the overall funding.

Applications will be subject to an income and expenditure assessment (including looking at levels of savings) as part of the assessment of entitlement to an award and the value and length of any award.

2. Explain how the main aims of the policy, strategy, function or service will demonstrate due regard to the aims of the General Duty?

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| 1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation? | Yes |
| 2. Advance equality of opportunity? | Yes |
| 3. Foster good relations? | Yes |
| 4. Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people? | Yes |
| 5. Encourage participation of disabled people? | Yes |
| 6. Consider more favourable treatment of disabled people? | Yes |

Discretionary Hardship Payment Scheme awards will b

Wider community no

Please provide an explanation for your 'Yes' or 'No' answer

We are aware that 47227 working age claimants will be affected by the reduction in funding of the Council Tax Support Scheme. This policy aims to assist those in severe financial difficulties.

During the extensive consultation exercise undertaken to obtain views of the proposed Localised Council Tax Support scheme feedback suggested that the Discretionary Hardship scheme was well received and believed to be a positive aspect of the overall scheme. 76 % of respondents were in favour of the scheme.

There are no adverse differential impacts noted for different equality characteristics. The

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