

# Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00023 (Version 1)

## SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

<b>Service &amp; Division:</b>	Corporate & Housing Services Finance	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>	Paul Ferguson
		<b>Team:</b>	Revenues and Benefits
		<b>Tel:</b>	01324 506983
		<b>Email:</b>	paul.ferguson@falkirk.gov.uk
<b>Proposal:</b>	Remove second home council tax discount for owners of second homes - £15k	<b>Reference No:</b>	CHS34

What is the Proposal?	Budget & Other Financial Decision	Policy (New or Change)	HR Policy & Practice	Change to Service Delivery / Service Design
	Yes	Yes	No	No

Who does the Proposal affect?	Service Users	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
	No	No	No	No

<b>Other, please specify:</b>	This affects a small number individuals who own a second home within Falkirk Council area. By nature of these being second homes these individuals generally live out with Falkirk area.
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Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):	
31/03/2019	Have policy agreed in advance of new financial year so that increased charge can be applied from 1st April.
30/04/2019	Ensure that all taxpayers affected are notified.

**SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:			Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:		
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:		
Increase to this service budget (£'000s)	Per Annum:		
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:	0	n/a
	Expected Annual Income Total:	£15,000	n/a
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:		
	End Date (if any):		

**SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE** Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

**A - Quantitative Evidence** This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

Unknown. The scale of voluntary returned canvas forms capturing key information is insufficient to be definitive, albeit it does indicate the expected position (i.e. that no protected groups are prevalent). Canvas forms relate to c. 10% of the group currently affected.

**B - Qualitative Evidence** This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

**Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other**

This charge has been deployed in c. 50% of Scottish Local authorities with no material impact. Each individual affected owns a second home and it is a modest increase in the charge that they already incur.

**Best Judgement:**

<b>Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?</b>	Yes
<b>Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?</b>	Revenues and Benefits Manager provided best judgement to supplement the limited data available.
<b>What gaps in data / information were identified?</b>	The future second home owners are unknown.
<b>Is further research necessary?</b>	No
<b>If NO, please state why.</b>	No further research will become available.

**SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT**

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

<b>Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?</b>	No	
<b>If YES, please state who was engagement with.</b>		
<b>If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.</b>	This is a charge that legislation has permitted since 2013 that has been deployed in c. 50% of Scottish local authorities.	
<b>How was the engagement carried out?</b>	<b>What were the results from the engagement? Please list...</b>	
<b>Focus Group</b>	No	
<b>Survey</b>	No	
<b>Display / Exhibitions</b>	No	
<b>User Panels</b>	No	
<b>Public Event</b>	No	
<b>Other: please specify</b>		
<b>Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?</b>	No	
<b>Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?</b>	No	
<b>Is further engagement recommended?</b>	No	

## SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

**Equality Protected Characteristics:** What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, public protection etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
Age				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Disability				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Sex				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Ethnicity				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Sexual Orientation				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Transgender				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Pregnancy / Maternity				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Marriage / Civil Partnership				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Poverty				Poverty is unlikely as these individuals are choosing to retain a second home.
Other, health, community justice, public protection etc.				Wide range as it is based on socio-economic factors that are not directly impacted by this characteristic.
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)				

**Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:**

	<b>Evidence of Due Regard</b>
<b>Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</b>	Due regard applied to this area. Information requested and demonstrated that no disproportionate impact on protected characteristic groups.
<b>Advance Equality of Opportunity:</b>	
<b>Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):</b>	This proposal had no impact in this area.

**SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

<b>Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?</b>		<b>Describe the interest / affect.</b>
<b>Business</b>	No	
<b>Councils</b>	No	
<b>Education Sector</b>	No	
<b>Fire</b>	No	
<b>NHS</b>	No	
<b>Integration Joint Board</b>	No	
<b>Police</b>	No	
<b>Third Sector</b>	No	
<b>Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.</b>		

## SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

**Mitigating Actions:** If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Increased cost	Second Home owners	Offer support of Empty Homes Officer to consider options	Paul Ferguson	30/06/2019	

### No Mitigating Actions

Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.

<b>Are actions being reported to Members?</b>	No
<b>If yes when and how ?</b>	



**SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME**

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	Yes	No material issues identified
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	No	
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

**SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF**

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Paul Ferguson</i>	Date:	13/12/2018
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**SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY**

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA:</b>	<b>Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?</b>	Yes
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<b>ASSESSMENT FINDINGS</b>	This does not have an adverse impact on any of protected characteristic groups.	
<b>If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA</b>		
<b>If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA</b>		

<b>Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?</b>	Yes / No	If YES, please describe:

**LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA**

LEVEL		COMMENTS
HIGH	Yes / No	
MEDIUM	Yes / No	
LOW	Yes	

**SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF**

<b>Director / Head of Service:</b>		
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Stuart Ritchie</i>	<b>Date:</b> 24/01/2019