

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Resources
Service Area	Financial Management
Service/policy/function being assessed	Council Tax setting
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Richmond
Staff involved	Mark Maidment, Fenella Merry, Katherine Burston
Date approved by Directorate Equality Group (if applicable)	n/a
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	2019
Date submitted to Directors' Board	n/a

SUMMARY

Please summarise the key findings of the EINA.

The Council is obliged to set a balanced budget and commensurate Council Tax level in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

For 2019/20, the key features of the proposed budget are a 4.99% increase in the Richmond element of the Council Tax which comprises:

- a 2.99% increase in the Richmond element of the Council Tax,
- a 2% precept (as allowed by Government) in support of Adult Social Care services
- a 8.93% increase in the GLA element of the Council Tax,

leading to an overall increase of 5.67%.

The analysis is split into 2 parts:

- The impact of increasing the Council Tax
- The impact of the generation of a 2% Adult Social Care precept

The Government's Spending Review announced that for the rest of the current Parliament, authorities responsible for adult social care would be "given an extra 2% flexibility on their current council tax referendum threshold to be used entirely for social care". The Council is also required, within seven days of setting its budget and council tax, to provide information demonstrating that the additional council tax yield generated has been applied to adult social care.

The council tax generated from this 2% increase will generate additional income of £2.5million to be attributed to adult social care. This “precept” also has to be shown on the face of council tax bills and in the “information supplied with the demand notice”.

Taking the precept will have a positive impact on users of adult social care in Richmond.

An EINA will be undertaken on any changes to services which result from the setting of this year’s Budget.

1. Background

Briefly describe the service/policy or function:

The recommendation in the report is as follows: -

That Members consider the advice of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in respect of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 in setting the budget

That the Council be recommended to agree the Revenue Budget for 2019/20

That the Cabinet notes the intention to increase the Council Tax by 2.0% in relation to the Adult Social Care precept

That the Council be RECOMMENDED to agree that the Band D level of Council Tax for 2019/20, including the Council’s increase in Council Tax of 2.99%, the Social Care Precept of 2% and the GLA increase of 8.9%, be set at £1,803.71, an overall increase of 5.67% on 2018/19. The levels of Council Tax for all property bands are shown at Appendix A; and

That the Cabinet note that the Medium Term Financial Strategy was approved by the Cabinet in September 2018 and a further update will be provided in September 2019.

2. Analysis of need and impact

PART 1 - Increasing the Council Tax

In terms of Council Tax liability, residents fall into one of the following 4 categories:

1. those liable to pay full Council Tax,
2. those eligible for some form of discount or exemption (other than Council Tax Support),
3. those eligible for Council Tax Support,
4. those with no Council Tax liability.

A 5.67% increase in the Band D Council Tax would result in a cash increase of £96.76 per year (£1.86 per week) for those required to pay the full charge. Over one third, (66p per

week), of the increase in the Richmond element of the Council Tax stems from the Government's offer to allow Councils to increase Council Tax, provided that the additional amount is used in support of Adult Social Care i.e. some of its most vulnerable residents.

Group 1 - Those liable to pay full Council Tax

For the majority of Richmond residents, the Council believes that the proposed increase will not have a significant impact. Richmond is known as an affluent borough with high levels of employment (77.8% economically active residents, 5,340 out of work benefit claimants (data as at November 2016)). There will be an impact for those Council Tax payers whose income is just above the threshold for Council Tax Reduction who will suffer the full increase. The Council has no specific equalities monitoring data on this group of residents.

Group 2 - Those eligible for some form of discount or exemption (other than Council Tax Support)

As per Group 1 but for those in receipt of a discount or exemption the effect of the increase would be proportionately less. For example, a Band D taxpayer who is eligible for a single person discount would be subject to an increase of £72.57 (£1.40 per week) rather than £96.76 (£1.86 per week).

Group 3 – Those eligible for Council Tax Support

The proportion of Council Tax liability on which Council Tax Reduction is calculated will increase to 100% from 85% from 1st April 2019. A separate consultation process including an EINA was undertaken on the change to 85% which this amendment has now reversed: <https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/documents/s65680/3%20APP%20B%20CTR%20EIN A%20Final.pdf>

Group 4 – Those with no Council Tax liability

The effect on this group is neutral.

PART 2 – USE OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT

Protected group	Findings		
Age	Age band	Census data (2011)	Adults Data
	18-64	86.5%	37.1%
	65-74	7%	2.8%
	75+	6.5%	50.1%
	Total	n/a	2211
	Adult Services support significantly more older residents than the borough average.		
Disability	Census data: the percentage of people who are inactive due to long-term sickness or illness is 2% of the population aged 16-74.		
	Profile of Adult Social Care Service Users: The majority of service users have physical disabilities or physical frailty as their main area of difficulty. In 2017/18, 608 had a mental health condition as their main difficulty and 469 a learning disability (all ages).		

Gender (sex)	<p>Census data: 51.3% of residents are female.</p> <p>Profile of Adult Social Care Service Users: 57.0% are female</p> <p>Adult Services support significantly more female residents than the borough average.</p>																		
Gender reassignment	Data not collected via the Census.																		
Marriage and civil partnership	Data not collected via the Census.																		
Pregnancy and maternity	Data not collected via the Census.																		
Race/ethnicity	<p>Census data: 14% of residents are from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities</p> <p>Profile of Adult Social Care Service Users: 11.3% of service users were from BME communities. The largest proportion of BME care service users come from the Asian or Asian British community.</p>																		
Religion and belief, including non belief	<p>Census data for all population of Richmond:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Census Data</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>55.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>1.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>0.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>3.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>0.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Religion</td> <td>0.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Religion</td> <td>28.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Religion	Census Data	Christian	55.3%	Buddhist	0.8%	Hindu	1.6%	Jewish	0.8%	Muslim	3.3%	Sikh	0.9%	Other Religion	0.5%	No Religion	28.5%
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Sexual orientation	Data not collected via the Census.																		
Across groups i.e older LGBT service users or BME young men	Data not collected via the Census.																		

Data gaps

Data gap(s)	How will this be addressed?

3. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	As 62.9% of Adult Social Care service users are aged 65 and over - taking the precept will have a positive impact in that it will ensure these vulnerable residents continue to receive support.	Although the increase in council tax will support vulnerable residents who are service users of adult social care it will mean that residents will see an increase in their council tax. The Council has a Council Tax Reduction Scheme which reduces the tax liability for certain classes of residents i.e. pensioners and those in receipt of certain disability benefits
Disability	As the majority of Adult Social Care service users have physical disabilities or physical frailty as their main area of difficulty taking the precept will have a positive impact in that it will ensure these vulnerable residents continue to receive support.	As above
Gender (sex)	As 57.0% of Adult Social Care service users are female taking the precept will have a positive impact in that it will ensure that vulnerable female residents continue to receive support.	As above
Gender reassignment	Taking the precept will support Gender reassignment service users of Adult Social Care and ensure they continue to receive support.	As above

Marriage and civil partnership	Taking the precept will support service users of Adult Social Care regardless of their relationship status and will ensure they continue to receive support.	As above
Pregnancy and maternity	Taking the precept will support service users of Adult Social Care regardless of whether they are pregnant or have recently given birth and will ensure they continue to receive support.	As above
Race/ethnicity	Taking the precept will support BME service users of Adult Social Care and ensure they continue to receive support.	As above
Religion and belief, including non belief	Taking the precept will support service users of Adult Social Care and ensure vulnerable residents, regardless of their faith or belief, continue to receive support.	As above
Sexual orientation	Taking the precept will support service users of Adult Social Care and ensure vulnerable residents, regardless of their sexual orientation, continue to receive support.	As above

4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Individual ENIAs are undertaken alongside any decision to change or reduce a service as a result of budget changes	Individual officers reporting	As changes are implemented

5. Consultation. (optional section– as appropriate)

Statutory consultation on the Council's service expenditure and council tax setting has been undertaken with business ratepayers' representatives.