

INITIAL COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)	Discretionary Business Rate Relief Review	
Lead Officer Name(s):	Phil Seddon	
Job Title & Location:	Head of Finance and Property Services	
Department/Service Area:	Finance	
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Date Assessment:	Commenced: 08.08.12	Completed: Ongoing

We carry out Community Impact Assessments to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The CIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. Overview

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:
To review the Council's current discretionary business rate relief arrangements in line with its Medium Term Financial Strategy.
Under the proposed changes organisations that have a Charity Commission registration or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) will continue to retain their mandatory 80% rate relief, this element is funded by Central Government and will be unchanged. The review only considers changes the additional 'up to' 20% discretionary relief together with those organisations where no formal status exists.
This impact assessment considers the impact in relation to removal (whole or partial) of the discretionary element of business rate relief to those currently in receipt of it.

(Refer to **CIA Guidance** for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

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2. Equality Impact

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact **from an Equalities perspective** on any of the protected equality groups listed below. **Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified. If you have identified any negative impact and mitigating actions are not sufficient, you will need to complete a Full Community Impact Assessment.**

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on protected equality group identified. See CIA Appendix 1 for details.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As above.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As above.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on protected equality group identified. See CIA Appendix 1 for details.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on protected equality group identified. See CIA Appendix 1 for details.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian women, gay men and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No specific impact on this protected equality group identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact identified. See CIA Appendix 1 for details.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A All Council decisions will be in line with Human Rights compliance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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CIA Appendix 1

With the information currently available, it is recognised that there is a potential negative impact to varying degrees on several protected equality groups, and the council will work with these organisations where possible to reduce the impact should the decision be taken to withdraw all or part of the current additional RBC discretionary business rate relief.

Based on currently discretionary business rate relief, 54 organisations are potentially impacted on to varying degrees. Of these, the majority will already receive and will continue to receive 80% mandatory rate relief, and therefore the impact will only be on the additional discretionary rate relief amount they receive of 'up to 20%'.

Only 7 organisations current received 100% discretionary rate relief directly from Rossendale Borough Council and will be affected by any decision to withdraw this support. On average the value the current relief is £2,615 pa per organisation. The 7 organisations are not currently registered charities therefore do not receive 80% mandatory rate relief from central government. Many of these organisations may be eligible for Charity Commission registration or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) status. RBC will ensure that they support/signpost these organisations to pursue this during the transition year should the decision be made to withdraw RBC discretionary rate relief. This would reduce the impact on these specific organisations because they could be granted an 80% protection in rate relief from central government.

Should additional information be brought to our attention throughout the consultation process, this will be reviewed accordingly.

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