

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) policy			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities To assess the impact of proceeding with the adoption of the CARF policy.</p> <p>Statutory drivers The Council needs to adopt a scheme to grant relief under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach Current and previous COVID-19 rates relief schemes have been targeted at businesses within the Hospitality, Retail and Leisure sectors. The new CARF scheme makes wider relief provision for additional business ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact, within a locally-devised policy.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) The key stakeholders are: the Council and local business ratepayers.</p> <p>Intended outcomes. To seek approval for the policy set out to reduce Business Rates liabilities to the extent permitted by Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund funding provided by central government; and for delegation to the Section 151 Officer of authority to make minor amendments to the policy and to decide the terms of which any second, supplementary awards are to be made.</p>			
Live date:	The Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance will consider the CARF policy on 13th January 2022.			
Lifespan:	To be applied to 2021-22 business rates liabilities.			
Date of next review:	April 2022			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CARF scheme is provided by central government to apply relief for business ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. The Government funding allocations have been calculated by reference to the rateable value and classifications of certain sections of the Rating List and ONS data setting out the corresponding average economic impacts of COVID-19. The local policy eligibility criteria and award levels are based on the same elements. In addition, a contingency fund is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of human rights.</p>
<p>Equality</p> <p>Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CARF scheme is provided by central government to apply relief for business ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. The Government funding allocations have been calculated by reference to the rateable value and classifications of certain sections of the Rating List and ONS data setting out the corresponding average economic impacts of COVID-19. The local policy eligibility criteria and award levels are based on the same elements. In addition, a contingency fund is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on different groups or individuals in terms of equality.</p>

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<p>Community cohesion</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The CARF scheme is provided by central government to apply relief for business ratepayers who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. The Government funding allocations have been calculated by reference to the rateable value and classifications of certain sections of the Rating List and ONS data setting out the corresponding average economic impacts of COVID-19. The local policy eligibility criteria and award levels are based on the same elements. In addition, a contingency fund is in place to provide for situations where an award of relief might be justifiable outside of the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is not considered that the report will have an adverse impact on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.</p>
<p>Next steps:</p> <p>➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed.</p> <p>➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.</p>				

Assessment completed by:	Nicola Mearns	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	30.12.21	Date:	04.01.22