

Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Housing Benefit Local Scheme			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities To assess the impact of proceeding with the renewed decision around the Housing Benefit Local Scheme</p> <p>Statutory drivers This report seeks approval for the ongoing full disregard of war pensions as income in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement. Section 134 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 permits a local authority to modify any part of the housing benefit scheme administered by the authority, subject to adoption by resolution of the authority. Middlesbrough Council has fully disregarded war pensions income since the introduction of Housing Benefit under the Act in 1992. However, the record of the original resolution is no longer held, therefore the decision requested will allow the Council to meet the requirement of the Department for Work and Pensions that Members have access to a record of the Council's modification to the scheme.</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach To formalise the ongoing full disregard of war pensions as income in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) Key stakeholders: the Council; Service Users</p> <p>Intended outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval for the ongoing full disregard of war pensions as income in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement. • To ensure there is an updated record of the ongoing approval of the decision to provide full member access and in line with the Department of Work and Pensions audit requirements. 			
Live date:	28 February 2025			
Lifespan:	Until Further Notice (review every 3 years)			
Date of next review:	1 April 2027			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of human rights.
Equality 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?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on individuals in terms of equality.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	☒	☐	☐	No evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Debbie Ingoldsby	Head of Service:	Janette Savage
Date:	12.2.25	Date:	12.2.25

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