

Equalities Analysis in Lambeth

Proposal Title *

Household Support Fund and Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate framework and approach

Author

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Please provide name of lead author and/or those within project team who may be required to contribute to this assessment

Who will sign off the assessment?

Ruth Hutt

Please indicate who will be involved in approving this assessment. This will need to be signed off by the Director

Q1a. What is changing?

Lambeth Council has been allocated £2.7m from the Department of Work and Pensions for the period of 1 April - 30 September as part of the Household Support Fund to support residents with increasing costs to food and fuel. Lambeth Council has also been allocated £1.5m Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate to be used to support residents with the increasing cost of living for the period of 1 April - 30 September.

Lambeth Council has put together a proposed programme of support for residents most impacted by increasing costs. This includes increasing capacity for at-scale food distribution services, providing additional support for households with children during the school holidays, providing direct awards to residents in receipt of council tax support payments and providing support to residents with no recourse to public funds who have care and support needs. These interventions will work alongside Lambeth's Household Support Scheme which accepts applications from residents requiring short term financial support.

The proposed interventions have been aligned with Lambeth's Food Poverty strategy and Debt Management strategy as well as the upcoming Child Poverty strategy

What is the most significant or key change taking place? Can you indicate the type of change in your response (e.g. policy/decision/strategy/ service/procedural/ geographic/procurement etc.) so it is clear what is being equalities assessed? Why is this change happening? What do you aim to achieve? Can you clearly indicate what decision-makers are being asked to take a decision on?

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Q1b. Who will be involved in approving this decision?

Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living, Strategic Director of Adults and Health, Director of Public Health

Who else will be involved in signing-off this decision?

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Q2a. What do we know about the people who will be impacted by this change?

There are an estimated 49,000 people in poverty in Lambeth. A third of working age people and a quarter of people of retirement age in Lambeth are living in poverty. Lambeth is the 8th most deprived borough in London and 22nd most deprived in England. The most deprived places in the borough are mostly in Brixton and Stockwell, with some in Norwood.

At least 44% of the borough are from black, asian and multiple ethnicity backgrounds. National data shows that approximately 40% of people from these backgrounds live in low income households, double the amount of white people in low income households.

What does your information tell you about the people who will be affected by this change? Are protected groups impacted? What information do you hold on the protected characteristics of the people affected by the change? (Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, health, socio-economic, language) Are there any gaps or missing information?

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Q2b. How will they be impacted by the change?

The funding should positively impact vulnerable and low income residents and help mitigate the impact of expected fuel & food increases in upcoming months. As mentioned above, residents from Black, Asian and multiple ethnicity backgrounds are twice as likely to be in low income households so this cohort will also be positively impacted by the distribution of funds.

The residents that will benefit from these interventions reflect the demographics of the borough and provide in-reach to their communities.

There will be no adverse impact on any protected characteristics.

Would you assess the impact as positive, adverse, neutral? Do you have any uncertainty about the impact of your proposal? Is there a likelihood that some people will more impacted than others? Can you describe the ways in which they will be affected? How might this change affect our 'general duty'?

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Q3a. How do you plan to promote and deliver any positive impacts of the proposal?

The funds will be distributed to advice agencies and organisations working with the community and who understand their needs. Communications will go out to these networks to encourage they apply for vouchers to distribute within their client group.

How might the principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and positive relationships be further promoted as a consequence of this proposal? How do you propose to measure your positive outcomes and the benefits outlined to find out if these have been achieved?

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Q3b How do you plan to address and mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal?

We will work with a diverse range of advice agencies and organisations who are already linked into the communities most affected by poverty, and impacts of the cost of living crisis to ensure that the support reaches those with the highest levels of need.

What impact has this evidence had on what you are proposing? What can you do differently that might lessen the impact on people within the timeframes i.e. development-implementation? Who can help you to develop these solutions?

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Q4. How will you review/evaluate your proposal, mitigating actions and/or benefits? Who will be responsible for this?

There is a governance structure in place to monitor spend of the funds and ensure these are being spent to support residents who need it most. This includes a working group with members from directorates across the Council meeting fortnightly

A Programme Lead is dedicated to producing a programme of work for Lambeth's response to increases in the Cost of Living and will monitor actions, benefits and spend.

Who will you be accountable to for the above actions/outcome? How will those responsible know these actions have worked? What performance indicators will you use to demonstrate this? Are there any other forms of evidence you can use to support this assessment of their effectiveness?

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Section to be completed by Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Outcome of equality impact assessment

- No adverse impact, no change required
- Low adverse impact, minor adjustment required
- Significant adverse impact, further action required
- Significant impact identified unable to mitigate fully
- Unlawful in/direct discrimination, stop and rethink

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Comments from Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

This programme of work builds on the previous distribution of household support funds, and we have liaised with the organisations on the ground who are already seeing the impact of the cost of living crisis. We have used their feedback and suggestions to try to improve the process of applying, widening the scope to encompass those who are struggling despite being in work and make it as simple as possible to access support.

Submit for approval

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When you are ready for the assesment to be reviewed by your Director, please select 'Submit for Approval' from the drop down. (Or select Resubmit if requesting approval after a rejection)

Executive Approval

Approved

For Directors: Please use the drop down to Approve or Reject the Assessment. (You will need to click 'Edit Item' at the top of the form to do this)

Attachments

Close