

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

20. P12 Finance Exception Report

(Pages 2 - 18)

Issued by: Sam Wilcock, Democratic Services
City Hall, Bristol, BS1 9NE

E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Thursday, 05 May 2022



Decision Pathway – Report

PURPOSE: For noting

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 10 May 2022

TITLE	Finance Exception Report – Period 12		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Tim Gibson	Job title: Interim Head of Financial Management		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Craig Cheney	Executive Director lead: Denise Murray		
Proposal origin: Other			
Decision maker: Officer			
Decision forum: For noting			
<p>Purpose of Report: This report is to make Cabinet aware of any material finance changes that have happened since the detailed Period 9 Finance report was presented and as a mechanism for any finance approvals that are required or where there are items for noting by Cabinet.</p>			
<p>Evidence Base: Since the period 9 Finance report (and the subsequent period 11 exception report) to Cabinet, the Finance Team is currently in the process of finalising the 2021/22 financial outturn position and this will be reported to the Cabinet meeting in June. The June Cabinet report will also set out proposals for the reporting timetable for the 2022/23 financial year.</p> <p>This report includes information about the Council Tax Rebate and Discretionary Fund Policy. In February, the Government announced a package of support for households to help with the rising energy costs. Households liable for council tax and living in properties in bands A-D will receive a payment of £150 Council Tax Rebate. Discretionary funding of £961,200 was also provided to Bristol to deliver further support to local households.</p> <p>A full Council decision was taken to delegate authority to the Director of Finance after consultation with Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance, Property and Culture and the Mayor to adjust the budget on receipt of the Energy Bill and Council Tax Rebate funding for Bristol and develop and implement the discretionary policy to facilitate the administration of this scheme. A copy of this policy is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>A full Equalities Impact Assessment of The Discretionary Fund - Council Tax Energy Rebate Policy is included at Appendix 2.</p> <p>This report also includes an End of Year Summary of the various Business Support Grants that have been received over the past year and payments of these to businesses and the 2021/22 Business Improvement Districts Funding Allocations that have been made. These allocations are mandatory in nature and the Council is required to pass these on subject to the rules and procedures that are set out by Central Government. This is included at Appendix 3.</p>			
<p>Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:</p> <p>That Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Discretionary Fund Policy (Council Tax Energy Rebate) which will support energy bill payers in Bands E-H who are in need, as well as those living in Bands A-D who are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate scheme. 			

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note that in line with the previously approved delegations the budget will be amended by £27.202m for the mandatory scheme and by £961,200 for the discretionary scheme. Note the allocations of Business Support Grants that have been received over the past year and payments of these to businesses. Note the summary of expenditure on Business Improvement Districts (BID's) from April 2021 to March 2022.
Corporate Strategy alignment: 1. This report sets out progress against our budget, part of delivering the financial plan described in the Corporate Strategy 2018-23 (p4) and acting in line with our organisational priority to 'Be responsible financial managers' (p11).
City Benefits: 1. Cross priority report that covers whole of Council's business
Consultation Details: 1. N/A
Background Documents: N/A

Revenue Cost	n/a	Source of Revenue Funding	
Capital Cost		Source of Capital Funding	
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:		
1. Finance Advice: The resource and financial implications are set out in the report		
Interim Head of Financial Management: Tim Gibson, 28 April 2022		
2. Legal Advice: There are no specific legal implications in respect of the report.		
Legal Team Leader: Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Service 29 th April 2022		
3. Implications on IT: No impact to IT/Digital Services arises from this report. The information within is as expected from the service areas.		
IT Team Leader:		
4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications arising from this report.		
HR Partner: Mark Williams, Head of Human Resources, 29 April 2022		
EDM Sign-off	Denise Murray	29 April 2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Craig Cheney	3 May 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's office	3 May 2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No

Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO

DISCRETIONARY FUND POLICY

(Council Tax Energy Rebate)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. On 3 February 2022, Government announced support to help protect households from rising energy costs. Under this announcement most households in England in council tax bands A-D will receive a £150 Council Tax Rebate to be made directly by local authorities from April 2022. The rebate will not need to be repaid and is a one-off payment to benefit around 80% of all homes in England. Bristol has been allocated £27.202m for the non-discretionary fund.
- 1.2. In most cases, those who pay council tax by direct debit and are eligible for this rebate will receive payment direct to their bank account. Arrangements will be put in place for others who are eligible to receive payment, and details will be published on the council's website.
- 1.3. In addition, the Discretionary Fund of £144m nationally is provided to support households who are in need. Councils can determine locally how to make best use of this funding to support households who are energy bill payers, whether or not they receive support of £150 under the Council Tax Rebate. Bristol has been allocated £961,200 and this will be targeted at those residents considered to be most significantly in need of support. Where appropriate we will also draw on the funding allocated via the Household Support Fund to support those of pension age.
- 1.4. This policy focuses on the Council Tax Rebate Discretionary Fund only, and aims to support energy bill payers in Bands E-H who are in need, as well as those in Bands A-D who are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate scheme.
- 1.5. Final payments under this scheme must be made by 30 November 2022.
- 1.6. Residents must apply for support under this scheme directly to the local council where you live. You can [check the postcode of your home](#) to see which is your local council. Note, if you apply to the wrong council your application will be declined and you will need to apply directly to the correct council.

2. Eligible households (a person or group of persons occupying a single dwelling)

- 2.1 You may be eligible for a one-off payment of £150 if:
 - You occupy an address within the Bristol City Council area as your sole or main residence on 1 April 2022 AND,
 - You pay your energy costs directly to the energy supplier by bill or pre-payment meter (not as part of your rent)

2.2. In addition, you must meet at least ONE of the following:

You live in a property in Bands E-H and

- are of state pension age OR
- are on Council Tax Reduction on 1 April 2022 OR
- qualify for council tax Disabled Band Relief OR
- you are eligible for a discount or exemption for council tax because you or an adult in your household is severely mentally impaired OR
- you qualify for a council tax discount because a member of the household is a carer OR
- you live in shared accommodation or a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) OR
- you are a Foster Carer for Bristol City Council OR
- a child in the household has an Educational Health Care Plan or SEND support

You live in a property in Bands A-D and

- You live in shared accommodation, or a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) and your landlord is liable for the council tax on your home OR
- Your property was re-banded in Band A-D after 1 April 2022, following an application made before 3 February 2022

Only ONE application can be made per household, regardless of the number of occupants or liable council tax payers. A household is defined for the purposes of this scheme as a person or group of persons occupying a single dwelling.

Eligibility is based on the position as at the end of day on 1 April 2022. Where the council has reason to believe the information we hold about the valuation list, the liable taxpayer(s) or residents' circumstances in respect of 1 April is inaccurate, the council will withhold payment and take reasonable steps to determine the correct information

3. Exclusions from the Discretionary Scheme

- 3.1. Your main residence is outside of the Bristol City Council area.
- 3.2. Your property is exempt under Class O as a resident of an armed forces accommodation (separate support is being administered directly by the Ministry of Defence)

- 3.3. You are the landlord and liable for either the council tax and/or the energy bill, but are not living in the property
- 3.4. The property is empty, not permanently occupied or used as a second home.

4. Application process

- 4.1. Residents must apply using the online application form **within the published dates**. Residents may be asked to provide evidence to support the information provided in the application.
- 4.2. Only one application is required per household.
- 4.3. Applicants will need to provide information and evidence, where relevant and/or appropriate including:
 - Council tax account number
 - Evidence of address
 - Photo ID or alternatively a passport number or driving licence number of the applicant
 - Bank details for payment
 - Email or correspondence address
 - Declaration of accuracy and consent to use data for wider verification
- 4.4. Bank details are being requested only for the purposes of making prompt payment under this scheme and will **not** be used to update the existing payment details for your council tax.

5. Award Process

- 5.1. There is no guarantee that every resident that meets the eligibility criteria of this policy will receive a grant.
- 5.2. Eligible applicants may only receive one grant per household depending on the demand and the funds available.
- 5.3. The council has discretion as to the prioritisation of all applications received and the level of each award.
- 5.4. In the event of complaint or challenge, applicants should follow the council's [complaints procedure](#). No separate dispute mechanism is in place with this fund.
- 5.5. In accepting a grant payment, the resident is confirming their eligibility for the scheme.
- 5.6. Any award paid in error must be repaid and will be subject to appropriate recovery action

6. Who will receive this funding?

- 6.1. The person who according to their application is the eligible beneficiary, certified by the evidence included in their application.
- 6.2. Where more than one person in a household applies, the recipient will be the person liable for council tax, OR where the liability is in more than one name, the person who pays the energy bill OR where the energy bill is in multiple names or there is a pre-payment meter, the first of the household to apply. The recipient will receive the payment on behalf of the household.

7. Will this grant scheme be subject to tax?

- 7.1. Grant income received by a resident is not taxable therefore awards made under this scheme will not have to be declared within the relevant annual tax return.
- 7.2. All payments made under the Council Tax Rebate or Discretionary Fund are to be treated as local welfare provision and therefore will not be taken into account in the calculation of income related benefits.
- 7.3. The council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will disregard these payments of local welfare support in determining a person's eligibility for a council tax reduction and the amount of any such reduction.

8. Managing the risk of fraud

- 8.1. Local authorities will not accept deliberate manipulation and will work collaboratively across the region and nationally to share intelligence and resources to detect fraud. Any person found to be giving false eligibility information or seeking to gain additional grant will be investigated. The council will recover money paid in error and fraudulent claims will be prosecuted in the courts.

9. Local Discretion

- 9.1 Where exceptional circumstances exist, the council reserves the right to vary the criteria of this scheme to respond effectively to local economic need.

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]



Title: Discretionary Fund - Council Tax Energy Rebate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Finance	Lead Officer name: Denise Murray
Service Area: Revenues & Benefits	Lead Officer role: Service Director - Finance

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use plain English, avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

<p>As part of a package of support to households with rising energy bills, the Government announced a Council Tax Rebate scheme on 3 February 2022. Under this scheme all households living in council tax bands A-D will receive a one-off payment of £150. There are up to 188,000 properties in Bristol that are potentially eligible for this rebate. A Discretionary Fund of £144 million nationally (£961,200 for Bristol) was also announced for councils to support vulnerable people and individuals on low incomes who do not pay council tax, or that pay council tax in bands E-H. There are approximately 18,000 properties in Bristol in Bands E-H.</p> <p>Our Discretionary Fund policy will offer a payment of £150 to all households living in properties in bands A-D that pay their energy costs directly but are not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate, and also to households in Bands E-H where a member of the household is likely to be disproportionately affected by the rise in energy bills. This includes those of pension age, with disabilities, or in shared accommodation.</p> <p>Depending on the volume of applications, we may top up the funding for this scheme from the Household Support Fund to support eligible households of pension age.</p>
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1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	
Additional comments:		

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

Yes **No** [please select]

Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/measuring-equalities-success>.

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data e.g. from national or local research, available data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there is any over or under representation of equality groups within relevant services - don't forget to benchmark to the local population where appropriate. Links to available data and reports are here [Data, statistics and intelligence \(sharepoint.com\)](#). See also: [Bristol Open Data \(Quality of Life, Census etc.\)](#); [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#); [Ward Statistical Profiles](#).

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected teams using available evidence such as [HR Analytics: Power BI Reports \(sharepoint.com\)](#) which shows the diversity profile of council teams and service areas. Identify any over or under-representation compared with Bristol economically active citizens for different characteristics. Additional sources of useful workforce evidence include the [Employee Staff Survey Report](#) and [Stress Risk Assessment Form](#)

Data / Evidence Source [Include a reference where known]	Summary of what this tells us																						
Quality of Life 2020-21 – Open Data Bristol	The Quality of Life in Bristol survey shows there are significant disparities based on people’s characteristics and circumstances in the extent to which they find it difficult to manage financially:																						
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Quality of Life Indicator</th> <th>% who find it difficult to manage financially</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16 to 24 years</td> <td>12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 years and older</td> <td>6.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 years and older</td> <td>3.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>8.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>8.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disabled</td> <td>21.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian /Asian British</td> <td>9.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black/Black British</td> <td>19.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity</td> <td>16.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White British</td> <td>10.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Quality of Life Indicator	% who find it difficult to manage financially	16 to 24 years	12.5	50 years and older	6.7	65 years and older	3.2	Female	8.6	Male	8.5	Disabled	21.6	Asian /Asian British	9.9	Black/Black British	19.8	Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity	16.3	White British	10.8
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	Disabled	21.6																					
	Asian /Asian British	9.9																					
	Black/Black British	19.8																					
Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity	16.3																						
White British	10.8																						

	White Minority Ethnic	8.4
	Lesbian Gay or Bisexual	12.7
	No Religion or Faith	8.0
	Christian Religion	8.3
	Other Religions	18,2
	Carer	10.7
	Full Time Carer	14.0
	Part Time Carer	9.7
	Single Parent	28.6
	Two Parent	9.6
	Parent (all)	12.0
	No Qualifications	10.0
	Non-Degree Qualified	12.9
	Degree Qualified	6.7
	Rented (Council)	20.3
	Rented (HA)	20.6
	Rented (Private)	14.6
	Owner Occupier	4.6
	Most Deprived 10%	18.8
	Bristol Average	8.7

Source: Quality of Life in Bristol 2021

Council Tax Database	<p>We can identify certain characteristics or circumstances from the discounts/exemptions awarded to those living in properties in bands E-H on their council tax liabilities, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 268 receive Council Tax Reduction (CTR) • 78 have a reduction for Disabled Band Relief (charged one band lower where qualifying criteria are met) • 59 have been diagnosed as severely mentally impaired by a doctor
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Additional comments:

The increase in energy bills will have a universal impact, but this will be experienced differently across all groups according to their personal use of fuel and their individual contracts with suppliers.

2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Race
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don't have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn't mean that you can't complete the assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps, then state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant characteristics may not be included in HR diversity reporting (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require an action to address under-reporting.

Our database does not hold data on ethnicity, religion/belief, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, gender reassignment or disability

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this had been of Bristol's diverse communities. See <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/equalities-groups>.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to [Managing change or restructure \(sharepoint.com\)](#) for advice on consulting with employees etc. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups and trades unions as well as affected staff.

A consultation process is not possible due to the timeframes involved, including the very short notice of the scheme by central government and short timelines for distribution, as all payments of the Discretionary Fund must be made by 30 November 2022, and any funding drawn from the Household Support Fund must be allocated by 30 September 2022.

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Equality and Inclusion Team for help in targeting particular groups.

In the event the Discretionary Fund is undersubscribed, engagement with stakeholders will be undertaken to promote take-up, or to consider potential variations to the scheme to achieve the spend by the deadline.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal. See detailed guidance documents for advice on identifying potential impacts etc. [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people based on their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many groups)

The two schemes combined are expected to have a positive impact on people from protected characteristic groups who will find it difficult to manage with the rise in energy bills and in the cost of living generally. The Discretionary Fund is targeted at those in higher banded properties of pension age and with disabilities, as well as those in shared housing which will include people with other protected characteristics.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Age: Young People

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes No

Potential impacts:

We expect a higher proportion of young people (including students) will live in shared accommodation, and the Discretionary Fund will support them regardless of which band their property is in, closing the gap in provision for this group under the Council Tax Rebate scheme

Mitigations:	None
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Older people living in properties in bands E-H will be supported by this proposal
Mitigations:	None
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Households where a member has a disability or is on disability benefits will be supported by this proposal
Mitigations:	None
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on this however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on sexual orientation however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on this however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on this however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on the ethnic background of residents by Council tax band, however there are differences in the extent to which residents are likely to live in overcrowded households (more people than bedrooms) and larger, intergenerational households depending on their on their ethnic background ¹ .
Mitigations:	The Discretionary Fund seeks to support the vulnerable and those on low incomes living in the higher banded properties (E-H).
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on this however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	We do not hold any data on this however there is no reason to suppose that this protected characteristic would be differently distributed across people living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally
Mitigations:	None
OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS	
Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	The schemes are designed to provide almost universal support to all households living in properties in bands A-D, which makes up over 90% of the domestic properties in

	Bristol, whilst the Discretionary Fund seeks to support the vulnerable and those on low incomes living in the higher banded properties (E-H).
Mitigations:	None
Carers	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Households that receive a discount because a carer is resident will receive support under this proposal
Mitigations:	None
Other groups [Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Looked after Children / Care Leavers; Homelessness]	
Potential impacts:	We hold limited data on some of these groups however there is no reason to suppose that they would be over-represented in those living in properties in Bands E-H than in the population generally. There are no care leavers living independently in bands E-H, but we do not know if any looked after children or care leavers live as part of a household in bands E-H
Mitigations:	None

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people based on their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

These funds will be distributed to the vast majority of households in Bristol, and will only have a positive impact on those with protected or relevant characteristics.

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This summary can be included in decision pathway reports etc.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary, and appropriate despite this.

Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:

There are no significant negative impacts, although it is possible that some equalities groups living in properties in bands E-H may not benefit from this fund when compared to others, such as older people and disabled people who are specifically targeted under the Discretionary Fund.

Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:

The proposal will advance equality of opportunity for those protected characteristic groups living in properties in bands E-H who are more likely to be adversely affected by the rise in energy costs.

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
None		

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if you have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective your approach is still appropriate.

It will be difficult to measure the direct impacts as the individual awards of £150 are of low value and are being distributed to the vast majority of households in Bristol. However we anticipate that this proposal will contribute to other citywide outcomes such as improvements Quality of Life survey indicators relating to economic wellbeing

Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the Equality and Inclusion Team before requesting sign off from your Director².

Equality and Inclusion Team Review: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	Director Sign-Off: D Murray
Date: 21/4/2022	Date: 4/05/22

² Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

End of Year Summary of Business Support Grants and Business Improvement Districts Funding Allocations

1.1. Business Support Grants

Receipt from the Government and onward payment of the following Business Support Grants during 2021/22 is reported below:

A range of business grants were announced by the Government to support businesses throughout the pandemic. The eligibility criteria for each grant were set by the Government, and the council was required to administer each scheme in line with the rules and procedures set out in the respective guidance documents. The final scheme closed on 31 March 2022.

Each scheme is fully funded by the Government. Initial funding received for each grant was based on estimates; a full reconciliation exercise of the funding received against expenditure, as set out below, will follow in the coming weeks with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:

Business Grant Type	Funding received	Issued as grants	Balance to be repaid to Government
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum)	£8,651,394	£5,405,072	£3,246,322
LRSO Sector		£33,968	-£33,968
LRSO Closed	£1,940,898	£2,342,881	-£401,983
LRSO Open	£550,554	£546,581	£3,973
Christmas Support Payment for Pubs	£390,400	£273,000	£117,400
LRSO Closed Addendum Tier 4 1 st Cycle	£12,977,091	£8,153,797	£4,823,293
LRSO Closed Addendum Tier 4 2 nd cycle	£13,595,048	£8,552,597	£5,042,451
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	£25,947,000	£16,333,772	£9,613,228
Restart	£26,172,999	£25,122,709	£1,050,290
Omicron Hospitality & Leisure	£4,356,198	£3,630,172	£726,026
	£94,581,582	£70,394,551	£24,187,031

The Additional Restrictions Grant was a discretionary fund launched on 31 October 2020 to support local businesses through the national restrictions that were to take effect from November 2020. To support businesses through further restrictions and the rise in the Omicron variant, top-up funding was received from Government in June 2021 and again in January 2022. The fund is now closed, and all payments were made by 31 March 2022.

Payments made from this fund during the period April 2021 to 31 March 2022 were:

Business Sector*	Number of	Value paid
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	payments	
Agriculture	7	£13,169.00
Manufacturing	198	£288,515.00
Energy	4	£4,247.00
Water Supply	1	£629.00
Construction	184	£244,730.00
Wholesale and Retail	864	£1,295,594.07
Transport and Storage	1731	£1,704,864.00
Hotels and Catering	907	£1,050,800.37
IT	108	£140,133.00
Finance and Insurance	38	£48,061.00
Real Estate	76	£115,968.00
Professional, Scientific & Technical	316	£382,187.00
Admin. Services	57	£72,520.00
Public Services	365	£342,774.00
Recreation and Culture	722	£848,541.00
Other Services	3772	£3,396,077.00
Total	9350	£9,948,809.44

*Sector as declared by the business in their application

1.2. Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are geographical areas where projects or services in addition to those delivered by the council, are carried out for the benefit of the business improvement district or those who live, work or carry on any activity in the district.

Bristol currently has 6 BIDs, each managed by a BID body. Each BID term lasts for up to 5 years. The projects and services are funded through a levy on business rate payers in the area, which is administered and collected by the council with each billing year running from November to October; after our costs are deducted from the levy the funds are distributed to the relevant BID body.

Summary of expenditure April 2021 to March 2022 is reported below:

BID	BID Body	Current BID year	End date	Properties	Annual Levy	BCC costs	Paid to BID body*
Bedminster	Bedminster BID	BID 2 Year 4	Oct-23	370	£133,212	£6,490	£107,424
Broadmead	<u>VisitWest</u>	BID 4 Year 4	Oct-23	271	£300,253	£10,000	£276,924
Cater	Cater Business Park Traders Group Ltd	Bid 3 Year 5	Apr-22	71	£54,312	£2,900	£13,221 (nb. part year only)
City Centre	<u>VisitWest</u>	BID 1 Year 5	Oct-22	704	£1,004,976	£20,000	£1,025,957
Clifton Village	Clifton Village BID	BID 2 Year 5	Oct-22	246	£82,328	£4,175	£68,300
Redcliffe & Temple	<u>VisitWest</u>	BID 1 Year 2	Oct-25	324	£822,719	£12,800	£691,486
					£2,397,800	£56,365	£2,183,314

*comprises amounts collected for current billing year November 2021-October 2022, as well as arrears collected for prior years