

APPENDIX B

Equality Screening Form

| Question | Response |
|--|---|
| Q1) Name of the strategy, policy, programme or project being assessed. | Local scheme for discretionary business rates relief following 2017 revaluation. |
| Q2) In no more than five lines and using Plain English, summarise the purpose of the policy or proposal, and its desired outcomes. | At the Budget on 8 March 2017, the Chancellor announced a £300m fund for local authorities to grant relief to those businesses in England who were hardest hit by the 2017 business rates revaluation exercise. Local authorities have now been given responsibility for designing local schemes. |
| Q3) Who should benefit from the proposal and in what way? | Eligible small businesses whose rates bills increased significantly as a result of the revaluation will see their increases capped. |
| Q4 Is there any evidence or reason to believe that in relation to this proposal, there may be a difference in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of participation • Uptake by different groups • Needs or experiences of different groups • Priorities • Other areas? | <p>Only small businesses will be affected by the proposals (those with rateable values of £200k or less).</p> <p>Information about the relief will be received equally by all those eligible.</p> <p>Engagement with the local business sector has been carried out, and the proposals positively received.</p> <p>The proposed hardship fund will also positively impact on the small business sector.</p> |
| Q5) Using the evidence listed above, fill in the table below to highlight the groups you think this policy | There is no potential for negative impact as the proposals will lessen the financial impact of the 2017 revaluation. |

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| <p>or proposal has the potential to impact upon:</p> <p>(i) Is there any potential for negative impact? Yes or No</p> <p>(ii) Are there opportunities for positive impact or to promote equality of opportunity?</p> | The scheme does not give any opportunities for promotion of equality of opportunity. |
| Q6) Considering your answers to questions 1-5, do you believe a Full Equality Impact Assessment is needed? | No |
| Q7) Considering our duty to proactively tackle disadvantage and promote equality of opportunity, list the actions required. | N/A |

Impacts Table

| | Is there potential for negative impact? YES or NO | Are there opportunities for positive impact? YES or NO | If YES, please provide details of the impact below | |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------|
| | | | Positive Impact | Negative Impact |
| All groups or society generally | NO | YES | Eligible businesses will be positively affected, irrespective of their equality characteristics. Their employees will therefore be positively affected, | |

| | | | | |
|---|----|-----|---|--|
| | | | including those with the characteristics listed below. | |
| Age - Older or younger people | NO | YES | | |
| Disability - People with a disability | NO | YES | | |
| Sex - Women or men | NO | YES | | |
| Pregnancy or maternity - including expectant or new parents i.e. pregnancy and maternity | NO | YES | | |
| Marriage and civil partnership – including same sex couples | NO | YES | | |
| Race - People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) | NO | YES | Horseracing industry businesses have been particularly affected by the scheme in W Suffolk, including a higher than average proportion of those from other nationalities backgrounds. | |
| Religion - People with a religion or belief (or who choose not to have a religion or belief) | NO | YES | | |

| | | | | |
|---|----|-----|---|--|
| Sexual Orientation - People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) or in a Civil Partnership | NO | YES | | |
| Gender Reassignment - People who are transitioning from one gender to another | NO | YES | | |
| <i>Families and those with parenting or caring responsibilities (The Families Test)</i> | NO | YES | | |
| <i>Individuals on low income</i> | NO | YES | | |
| <i>Those suffering rural isolation</i> | NO | YES | | |
| <i>Those who do not have English as a first language</i> | NO | YES | Horseracing industry businesses have been particularly affected by the scheme in W Suffolk, including a higher than average proportion of those for whom English is not a first language. | |

| Action Plan | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Equality group/ characteristic | Action/milestone | Responsibility (Project manager or partner organisation) | Achievement date | Monitoring arrangements |
| | | | | |

Sign off section

This Screening Level EqIA was completed by:

Name Rachael Mann

**Job Title Assistant Director (Resources and
Performance)**

Signature R Mann

Date 12/06/217

**On completion, please submit this document with the policy
or proposal. Guidance and advice on draft and final versions
can be obtained from:**

**Tanya Sturman, Corporate Policy Team
01638 719473
tanya.sturman@westsuffolk.gov.uk**