

Equality Impact Assessment: *Economic Vulnerability Fund*

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Executive 27 th June 2023 Council 18 th July 2023	Economic Vulnerability Fund	Disbursal of grant funding to support economically vulnerable households in line with draft policy.	None

Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This is must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Neutral		
Disability: as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	Positive		Households including a member with a disability are amongst those identified as particularly subject to food and fuel insecurity ¹ . They are therefore a priority group to receive support through the Economic Vulnerability Fund.
Sex/Gender	Neutral		
Gender reassignment	Neutral		
Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).	Neutral		
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	Neutral		

¹ [Food and Fuel Insecurity in Devon, 2023 - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Positive		Households with children or including a member of pensionable age are amongst those identified as particularly subject to food and fuel insecurity. They are therefore priority groups to receive support through the Economic Vulnerability Fund.
Pregnancy and maternity including new and breast feeding mothers	Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership status	Neutral		

Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion

- The scheme is open to all low income households with a need for additional support. This will provide a flexible further route to access financial support for households missing out on other schemes. Customers with protected characteristics may face additional obstacles in accessing the support on offer elsewhere through standard entitlement schemes. The additional flexibility offered by EVF should allow more vulnerable households to receive support that is missed with rigid eligibility criteria in operation elsewhere.
- Promotion of the support available through EVF and the Household Support Fund will be carried out with organisations working to support vulnerable groups, including those with protected characteristics, helping to improve reach and uptake in these groups.

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Date: 15 May 2023