ID Number 2211

old number 977

Update 04.12.23

Introductory Information

Budget/Project name

Household Support Fund

Proposal type

- Budget
- Project

Decision Type

- \bigcirc Cabinet
- Cabinet Committee (e.g. Cabinet Highways Committee)
- $\bigcirc \ \text{Leader}$
- Individual Cabinet Member
- $\odot~$ Executive Director/Director
- Officer Decisions (Non-Key)
- Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)
- Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)

Lead Cabinet Member Julie Grocutt

Entered on Q Tier

○ Yes ● No

Year(s) ● 21/22 ○ 23/23 ○ 23/24 ○ 24/25 ○ other

EIA date: 28/09/21, updated 01/03/2023, 26/06/2023, updated 04/12/2023

EIA Lead	
Adele Robinson	O Ed Sexton
 Annemarie Johnston 	O Louise Nunn
 Bashir Khan 	0
O Beverley Law	0
Person filling in this EIA form	Lead Director for Project
Alex Westran	Ajman Ali

Lead Equality Objective

 Understanding 	 Workforce 	\odot Leading the city in	 Break the cycle and
Communities	Diversity	celebrating &	improve life chances
	-	Paroenoting3	
		r que i 23	

Portfolio, Service and Team

Cross-Portfolio

Portfolio

• Yes O No

Neighbourhoods

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

○ Yes ● No

Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve

The aim of the proposal is to use the Household Support Fund to support vulnerable people who are experiencing hardship. We want to ensure that the fund goes to those most in need and that the distribution of the fund helps alleviate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for those who are affected by inequalities. This EIA has been completed in conjunction with a Cost-of-living cohort analysis which has looked at which groups and communities are disproportionately impacted by the cost of living crisis, where support is already being received and which groups are not receiving enough support. Update December 2023- a previously ringfenced fund from the Household Support Fund (delegated to the Director of Communities) has been allocated to the application scheme to ensure there is sufficient money in the scheme to meet need. It also seems the most equitable way of meeting the objectives of the October 2023 Full Council motion requesting the Strategy and Resources Committee look at fully costed proposals to help put cash in people's pockets at Christmas. Equality implications will continue be monitored against awards made and will be considered as part of the ongoing delivery of the scheme and will be coordinated by the Cost-of-living strategy groups (Strategic, Tactical and Operational).

Impact

Under the <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u> we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

More information is available on the <u>Council website</u> including the <u>Community Knowledge</u> <u>Profiles</u>.

Note the EIA should describe impact before any action/mitigation. If there are both negatives and positives, please outline these – positives will be part of any mitigation. The action plan should detail any mitigation.

Overview

Briefly describe how the proposal helps to meet the Public Sector Duty outlined above

The objective of the Household Support Fund (HSF) is to provide support to vulnerable households who most need it through the cost-of-living crisis. It aims to assist households via small grants to meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.

The nature of the Covid-19 virus and latterly the cost-of-living crisis has not been felt evenly across all communities and what we have seen is there is a strong relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and health inequality which will be further compounded by the economic outfall as the cost-of-living crisis impacts. During the delivery of the HSF and the cost-of-living crisis generally so far, we have collected data and consulted with community leaders to understand the scale of the impact of the crisis on different groups. Our understanding from the response phase supporting communities in Sheffield is that the people who were already classed as disadvantaged before this crisis are growing more disadvantaged, and that more people will be falling into vulnerability due to stagnant wages, lower employment levels, then compounded by rising costs for energy, food and essentials.

Analysis of HSF spend between October 2021 through to January 2023 demonstrates this, with 33% of spend going towards supporting individuals with energy and water costs, and a further 17% towards food (excluding Free School Meals cohort food voucher funding, which represented 28% of spend at this point). With continued inflation, it is anticipated that need in these areas is only likely to increase. Supporting people financially when they experience a crisis is a key component to preventing further hardship that they may be unable to recover from if help is not provided. We recognise that groups in our communities who are already more affected by inequalities are more likely to need financial support, we are using the data that we collect and the insight gained from consultation to ensure that our support is directed towards those who need it most. We are also using census data, national research and analysis, DWP data and data from other Council services such as Council Tax and Benefits to assess which groups are disproportionately impacted and which groups are in most need of support through the HSF and connected processes.

Equality implications will be monitored against awards made and will be considered as part of the ongoing delivery of the scheme and will be coordinated by the Costof-living strategy groups (Strategic, Tactical and Operational).

Communication with groups that are identified as needing additional support in raising awareness of the scheme and help to apply will be targeted, support to help those groups apply will be mainly facilitated by the Trusted Assessor process, but also using translation services on the community helpline and by in person sessions in communities, as well as comms campaigns and through engagement with community and voluntary sector partners.

Data and consultation insight will also help us decide where targeted awards should be made. Targeted awards will be made where we can determine that particular groups have not already received energy support or where we can determine that certain cohorts are not accessing the HSF in the levels expected in comparison to population levels and deprivation levels.

Please see the <u>attached link</u> to view the background paper relating to the cohort analysis

See supporting demographic information via the JSNA and Community Knowledge Profiles. <u>http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/community-knowledge-</u> profiles.html

Impacts

Proposal has an impact on

Health	
● Age	• Carers
 Disability 	 Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
 Pregnancy/Maternity 	O Cohesion
Race	Partners
 Religion/Belief 	Poverty & Financial Inclusion
• Sex	O Armed Forces
	O Other

Give details in sections below.

Does the Pronosal				
	have a significant on the wider dete			-being
• Yes	if Yes, complete sec	tion below		
Staff	Impact			
⊖ Yes	O Positive	○ Neutral	○ Negative	
	Level O None	○ Low	O <mark>Medium</mark>	⊖ High
Details of impact				
partly because of a are also more likely times as likely to liv (Resolution Founda to keep their homes (Resolution Founda) This year, Citizen's cost-of-living issues most common occu Advice Cost of Livin to see a delayed im reduction in the gen the cumulative effe The proposal that w application process	Advice supported a s, with people who a pational group to be g Dashboard). Disal pact of cost-of-living neral cost-of-living s ct of ongoing high fo vill be taken to S&R for HSF that will rer	ed by their he e roles. Disable ation than the of disabled adu to 23% of the record numbe re permanentle assisted with bility Sheffield g on disabled p upport provide bod and energe	alth problems. T ed people are all rest of the popu ilts said they cou rest of the popu r of disabled peo y sick or disable crisis support (0 also report that people, potential ed to households y costs.	hose in work most three ulation uldn't afford ulation ople with ed being the Citizens they expect ly due to the s, as well as
automatically received	term health condition ria and who are in re ve an award and will	eceipt of mear	gistered disable is tested benefit	d. Applicants s will
who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship.	ria and who are in re	eceipt of mear not be require	egistered disable ns tested benefit ed to provide ev	d. Applicants s will idence of
who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship. Staff and customers criteria.	ria and who are in re ve an award and will	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund	egistered disable is tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the	d. Applicants s will idence of
who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship. Staff and customers criteria.	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund	egistered disable is tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the	d. Applicants s will idence of
who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship. Staff and customers criteria. Customers Yes	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund	egistered disable is tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the O Negative	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility
who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship. Staff and customers criteria.	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund	egistered disable is tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the O Negative	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility
 who meet this crite automatically receiv their hardship. Staff and customers criteria. Customers Yes Details of impact Same as staff – See 	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund O Neutral O Low	egistered disable ns tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the O Negative Medium	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility
 who meet this crite automatically receive their hardship. Staff and customers criteria. Customers Yes Details of impact Same as staff – See Comprehensive Here 	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund O Neutral O Low	egistered disable ns tested benefit ed to provide ev if they meet the O Negative Medium	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility
 who meet this crite automatically receive their hardship. Staff and customera criteria. Customers Yes Details of impact Same as staff – See Comprehensive Here Comprehensive Here Comprehensive Here Compres No 	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund O Neutral O Low	egistered disable as tested benefit: ed to provide ev if they meet the • Negative • Medium	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility O High
 who meet this crite automatically receive their hardship. Staff and customera criteria. Customers Yes Details of impact Same as staff – See Comprehensive Here Comprehensive Here Comprehensive Here Compres No 	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None e above e above alth Impact Asses impact assessment	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund O Neutral O Low ssment being as a supportin	 egistered disable ns tested benefit: ed to provide ev if they meet the Negative Medium 	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility O High
 who meet this crite automatically receive their hardship. Staff and customers criteria. Customers Yes Details of impact Same as staff – See Comprehensive He O Yes No Please attach health 	ria and who are in reve an award and will s are able to access Impact Positive Level None e above e above alth Impact Asses impact assessment	eceipt of mear not be require the HSF fund O Neutral O Low ssment being as a supportin	 egistered disable ns tested benefit: ed to provide ev if they meet the Negative Medium 	d. Applicants s will idence of eligibility O High

-					
S taff) <mark>Yes</mark>	● No	Impact ○ Positive	 Neutral 	 Negative 	
		Level O None	○ Low	<mark>○ Medium</mark>	⊖ High
Details of i	mpact				
18% for 30 concern – r people tenc rent, rather being partic Young peop For example people und upwards. Lo covered by	-34s - JRF). notably singled to have low than own to cularly hard- ole are also e, the mont er 25 is £29 ocal Housing Be	However, again le people under wer levels of ear cheir property, w -hit by increased entitled to signif hly standard allo (2.11, as oppose g Allowance, the nefit/the housin	n, within this, 25 who are li ming, fewer s vith those in p d rents. ficantly less fr owance for Ur ed to £368.74 e figure that g og element of	psed to 17% for there are specific ving independen avings and be morivate rented accorrect rom benefits that niversal Credit for for single people overns the rent Universal Credit single people unc	ic groups of tly. Young ore likely to commodation n older people. or single e aged 25 and that can be for individuals
this is base have also b Private-rent	d around th been frozen s ted property	e costs of a rent since April 2020	ting a room ir , reducing the ne primary op	n a shared prope e amount payabl tion for single pe	rty. Rates e yet further.
this is base have also b Private-rent people, who The propose into this cat evidence of	d around th been frozen s ted property o often have als set out i tegory, awa	e costs of a rent since April 2020 y is also often th e limited access n the form 2 pro rds will also be the applicant is	ting a room ir , reducing the ne primary op to social hous provide enhance provided with	n a shared prope e amount payabl tion for single pe	rty. Rates e yet further. cople young ople who fall nent to provide
this is base have also b Private-rent people, who The proposi into this cal evidence of	d around th been frozen s ted property o often have als set out i tegory, awa	e costs of a rent since April 2020 y is also often th e limited access n the form 2 pro rds will also be	ting a room ir , reducing the ne primary op to social hous provide enhance provided with	n a shared prope e amount payabl tion for single pe sing. ed awards for per out the requirem a means tested l	rty. Rates e yet further. cople young ople who fall nent to provide
this is base have also b Private-rent people, who The proposi into this cal evidence of	d around th been frozen s ted property o often have als set out i tegory, awa hardship if	e costs of a rent since April 2020 y is also often the e limited access n the form 2 pro rds will also be the applicant is Impact	ting a room ir , reducing the ne primary op to social hous ovide enhance provided with in receipt of	n a shared prope e amount payabl tion for single pe sing. ed awards for per out the requirem a means tested l	rty. Rates e yet further. cople young ople who fall nent to provide benefit.
this is base have also b Private-rent people, who The proposi into this cat evidence of Customers Yes	d around th een frozen s ted property o often have als set out i tegory, awa hardship if	e costs of a rent since April 2020 y is also often the e limited access n the form 2 pro rds will also be the applicant is Impact • Positive Level O None	ting a room ir , reducing the ne primary op to social hous ovide enhance provided with in receipt of O Neutral	n a shared prope e amount payabl tion for single pe sing. ed awards for per iout the requirem a means tested l O Negative	rty. Rates e yet further. cople young ople who fall nent to provide benefit.

Disability - <mark>See health</mark>					
Staff O Yes	No	Impact O Positive	 Neutral 	 Negative 	
		Level O None	○ Low	O Medium	⊖ High
Details of imp	act				
Customers		Impact	e 128		

• Yes	O No	○ Positive	 Neutral 	○ Negative	
Details of	⁻ impact	Level O None	O Low	● Medium	⊖ High

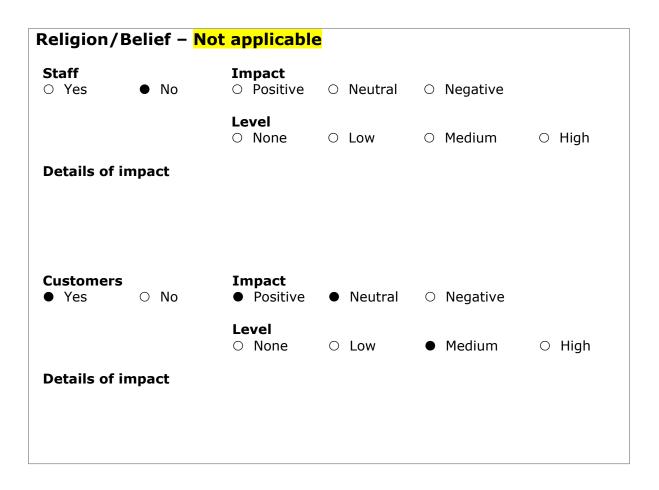
Pregnancy/Maternity - Not applicable					
Staff ○ Yes ● No	Impact O Positive	 Neutral 	 Negative 		
	Level O None	O Low	O Medium	⊖ High	
Details of impact					
Customers ● Yes ○ No	Impact ● Positive	O Neutral	 Negative 		
	Level O None	• Low	O Medium	O High	
Details of impact					

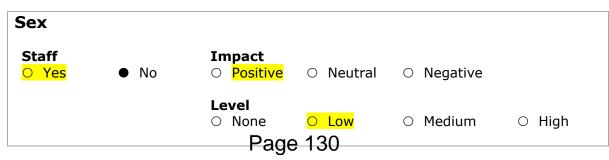
Race							
<mark>Staff</mark> ○ Yes	● No	Impact O Positive	0	Neutral	0	Negative	
		Level O None	0	Low	O	Medium	⊖ High
Details of	impact						
Nationally, JRF findings suggest there are huge variations in poverty rate by ethnicity. For example, around half of all people in households headed by someone of Bangladeshi ethnicity were in poverty in 2020/21, with rates for people in households headed by someone of Pakistani or Black ethnicity also having very high poverty rates of more than 4 in 10, more than twice the rate of people in households headed by someone of white ethnicity.							
A Resolution Foundation <u>report</u> shows very recent polling evidence that people from diverse communities are more likely to be skipping meals compared to those from white households. This disparity between communities reflects inequalities that were also evident during the pandemic. We know from conversations with different communities throughout cost-of-living response and pandemic, that access to key information and support and lack of trust can make it harder for people in to access support they are entitled to. There is ongoing work with							

communities to co-develop messages in languages and formats that are more accessible to them, and work with trusted assessors within community organisations to improve access to HSF and other hardship support.

The diverse communities cohort includes asylum seekers, a group that we know can be often be in hardship, relying on asylum support payments of around £40 per week to meet day to day living costs. We have not considered this group in detail here, as Household Support Fund guidance currently restricts payments to any people without recourse to public funds, including asylum seekers, to individuals with needs beyond destitution, for example where there is a community care need, or a child's wellbeing is at-risk. Access to the scheme is therefore provided by referrals through from Social Care teams internally.

Customers ● Yes O	Impac No ● Posi		al O Negative	
	Level O Non	e O Low	Medium	O High
Details of impa See above	ct			



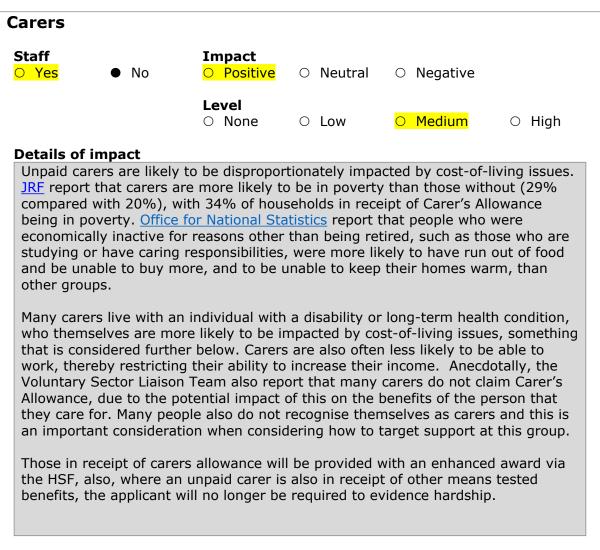


Details of impact						
Although the Cohort Analysis has not specifically focussed on sex as an area that creates inequalities in the sense of financial hardship and poverty, within other areas of the cohort analysis there were key findings that related to sex. For example single parent families are more likely to experience hardship and those families and this can disproportionatlely affect woman.						
independently, these hou	Also people living independently and people who are under 25 and live independently, these households are most likely to be male, meaning in this group, males are disproportionately impacted.					
Both of the above cohort removal of the burden to benefits.						
<mark>Customers</mark> ○ Yes ● No	Impact O Positive	O Neutral	 Negative 			
	Level O None	<mark>○ Low</mark>	O Medium	O High		
Details of impact						
See above						

Sexual Orie	entation -	Not applic	<mark>able</mark>		
Staff O Yes	• No	Impact O Positive	 Neutral 	 Negative 	
		Level O None	○ Low	O Medium	⊖ High
Details of im	pact				
Customers O Yes	• No	Impact O Positive	O Neutral	 Negative 	
		Level O None	○ Low	O Medium	O High
Details of im	pact				

Transgen	Fransgender – <mark>Not applicable</mark>					
Staff O Yes	● No	Impact Page 131	 Negative 			





● Positive ○ Neutral ○ Negative

Impact

Customers

Yes

○ No

Level O None	O Low	Medium	O High

Cohesion – Not applicable					
Staff O Yes	● No	Impact O Positive	 Neutral 	 Negative 	
		Level O None	O Low	O Medium	O High
Details of in	npact				
Customers		Impact P	age 133		
			490.00		

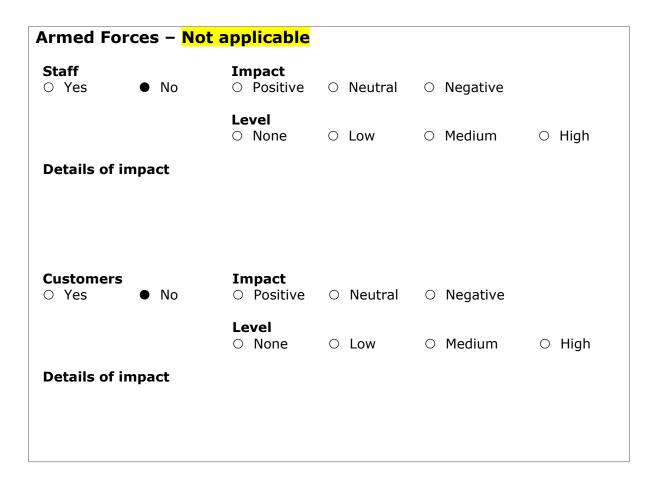
O Yes	No	O Positive	O Neutral	○ Negative	
		Level O None	O Low	O Medium	O High
Details of i	mpact				

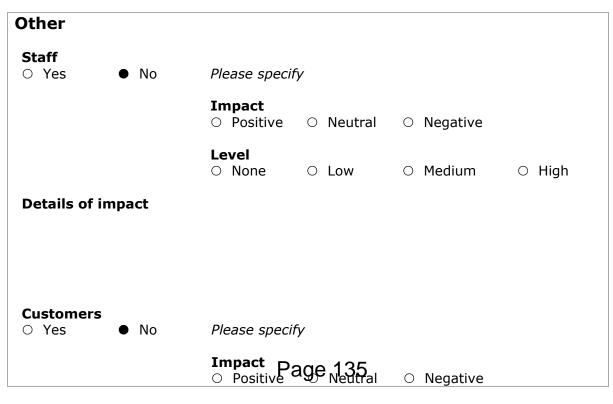
Staff		Impact			
) Yes	○ No	 Positive 	 Neutral 	○ Negative	
		Level			
		O None	○ Low	 Medium 	O High
Details of i	mpact				
Customers		Impact			
) Yes	O No	 Positive 	 Neutral 	 Negative 	
		Level			
		O None	○ Low	 Medium 	O High
Details of i	mpact				

Poverty & Financial Inclusion						
Staff ● Yes	○ No	Impact ● Positive	○ Neutral	 Negative 		
		Level O None	○ Low	O Medium	● High	
Details of impact Staff will be targeted with internal comms around the support available if they are impacted by the cost of living, and also with comms and toolkits to assist customers who may need to be provided with support to tackle poverty and improve financial inclusion.						
Customers ● Yes	s O No	Impact ● Positive	O Neutral	 Negative 		
		Level ○ ^{None} Page	134 ^{Low}	O Medium	● High	

Details of impact

The Cohort Analysis has focussed entirely on how cohorts and communities are disproportionately impacted by matters relating to poverty and financial inclusion. The form 2 proposals are designed to ensure that those who are most likely to experience poverty or less likely to be able to access support when it is needed, as highlighted by the cohort analysis, are given enahanced awards or are provided with support to apply, alongside targeted engagement and making it easier to apply and receive an award.





Details of impact	Level O None	O Low	O Medium	⊖ High
Cumulative Imp Proposal has a cumula • Yes O No	tive impact			
O Year on Year	• Across a (Community of	Identity/Interest	
O Geographical Area	O Other			
Some communities will economic disadvantage. to target awards and en receive an award from t receive multiple enhanc award. So cumulative in	Data showing gagement who he HSF who a ements to the) multiple indic ere disadvanta re impacted by ir award and n	ces of deprivation age is identified. T y more than one f nay receive an au	will be used hose who factor may tomativ
Proposal has geograph ● Yes O Ne	-	across Sheffi	eld	
If Yes, details of geograp Certain geographical are socio-economic disadvar engagement and comm	as will be montage. The col	re impacted by nort analysis h	multiple factors as highlighted the	
Local Area Committee ● All ○ Specific	Area(s) impa	acted		
If Specific, name of Local	Partnership A	rea(s) impact	ed	

Action Plan and Supporting Evidence

Action Plan

Targeted awards, engagement and communications campaigns to be carried out as an ongoing piece of work, to be taken forward by the Cost-of-living Support Hub.

Supporting Evidence (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA) Please see Cohort Analysis

Consultation

Consultation required

Page 136

If consultation is not required please state why

No

Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them
 ● Yes
 ○ No

Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them ○ Yes ● No

If you have said no to either please say why

Part of the work to raise awareness of the Household Support Fund has identified that not everyone who is eligible is aware that they are eligible. Cohort data as helped us to identify those who may struggle to access the fund or who may be more impacted by socio-economic disadvantage. Engagement and communications campaigns are being targeted where disadvantage is identified.

Summary of overall impact

Summary of overall impact

Medium impact

• Yes

Summary of evidence

Cost-of-living dashboard and community helpline dashboard data. Cohort Analysis

Changes made as a result of the EIA

Targeted comms, engagement and support to apply. Enhanced awards dependent on cohort, and the removal of the requirement to provide evidence of hardship if you are part of a disporoportionately impacted cohort.

Escalation plan

Is there a high impact in any area? ○ Yes ● No

Overall risk rating after any mitigations have been put in place○ High○ Medium● Low○ None

Sign Off

EIAs must be agreed and signed off by the equality lead in your Portfolio or corporately. Has this been signed $\text{PM}_{12} \approx 137$

O Yes O No

Date agreed 04.12.23

Review Date