

## Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** RESOURCES REVENUES AND BENEFITS

**Head of Service:** JON TRIGGS

**Lead Officer:** JULIE DARK

**Date:** 12 October 2020

**Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:**

**Test and Trace Payment Schemes**

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:**

From 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Government has changed the legislation so that certain people will have to self-isolate due to the current COVID-19 crisis.

A package of legislative measure has been introduced both to ensure that those who are required to self-isolate do so, that those on a low income receive a payment to assist their finances and to encourage compliance with the legislation.

The Government has set down the requirements for two payment schemes to be set up by the Council;

- The Test and Trace Support Payments Scheme (the standard scheme)
- The Test and Trace Discretionary Payments Scheme (the discretionary scheme)

**Date of Assessment:**

12 October 2020

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:**

JULIE DARK

**Contact Details:**

[julie.dark@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:julie.dark@northdevon.gov.uk)

**Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:**

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
The Test and Trace Support Payments Scheme (standard scheme)	N/A new Covid-19 Government scheme	As from 28 September 2020, eligible individuals are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment or Discretionary Support Payment of £500	Eligibility criteria laid down by central government
The Test and Trace Discretionary	N/A new Covid-19 Government scheme	Where individuals meet the requirements of the standard scheme with	Government guidance states that Councils can introduce additional criteria to determine eligibility for

Payments Scheme (the discretionary scheme)		the exception that they are not in receipt of a qualifying benefit they can be considered for a payment from the discretionary scheme. For this to apply they will need to be on a low income and can demonstrate that they will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work whilst they are self-isolating.	discretionary payments in their area, as long as these operate in addition to, rather than instead of, the criteria set they set out in Government Guidance.

### Impact

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

We have considered those in the equality groups (See below) and are satisfied that this report / decision would have no effect or repercussions on those groups. Therefore there is a neutral impact.

### Age

### Disability

### Gender Reassignment

### Marriage and Civil Partnership

### Pregnancy and Maternity

### Race

### Religion or Beliefs

### Sex/Gender

### Sexual Orientation

Customers are required to make a claim online via the NDC website. Claims completed by third parties are accepted for customers who do not have internet access or have any disability or other valid reason why a claim cannot be made by them online. For customers who still require assistance for any of the reasons mentioned before, the Council will assist them with claims. Claims can also be made by telephone in such cases. NDC have hearing loops for our hard of hearing customers and have an interpretation service available for customers whose first language is not English.

### Consideration of Alternatives

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

<p>None, scheme as per Government guidance Consultation</p>
<p>Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:</p> <p>none</p>
<p><b>Monitoring Arrangements</b></p> <p>Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal:</p> <p>Scheme ends January 2021, Covid-19 related measures only</p>
<p><b>Reporting and Publication</b></p> <p>Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.</p> <p><b>Date published:</b></p> <p>NOTE: The completion of an Equality Impact Assessments is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published. A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.</p>
<p><b>Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:</b> 28 September 2020</p> <p><b>Funding considerations:</b></p> <p>Government has confirmed that it will reimburse the Council for administration costs of both schemes and for all payments made under the standard scheme.</p> <p>The Council has received a fixed amount of funding to make payments under our discretionary scheme.</p>
<p><b>Date approved by Head of Service:</b></p>
<p><b>Corporate and Community Services Use Only:</b></p> <p>Date of publication to NDC Website:</p> <p>Date of Feedback (if required):</p> <p>Feedback:</p>