

<b>AssessmentNo</b>	706	<b>Owner</b>	amenon	
<b>Resource</b>	Transformation		<b>Service/Establishment</b>	Resources
	First Name	Surname	<b>Job title</b>	
<b>Head Officer</b>	Arun	Menon	Business Support Manager	
	(include job titles/organisation)			
<b>Members</b>	Arun Menon (Business Support Manager); and Stella Kinloch (Section Head – Transactional Services)			
	<i>(Please note: the word 'policy' is used as shorthand for strategy policy function or financial decision)</i>			
<b>Policy Title</b>	West Dunbartonshire Council Non Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief Policy			
	<b>The aim, objective, purpose and intended outcome of policy</b>			
	With effect from 1 April 2023 the determination and administration of Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief (EPR) will be devolved to local authorities in Scotland. As a result Councils will be required to set their own policy for the rating and reliefs available for unoccupied or empty properties. The Council's EPR Policy 2023 will replicate existing statutory reductions which will terminate at 31 March 2023. Empty properties will continue to be awarded EPR relief from Non-Domestic Rates in line with the agreed policy and failure to do so by 1 April 2023 will mean that the existing relief cannot continue and ratepayers would be liable to pay the full NDR charge excluding relief.			
	<b>Service/Partners/Stakeholders/service users involved in the development and/or implementation of policy.</b>			
	WDC Regulatory and Regeneration Services; other councils have been consulted as to their intentions through discussions at IRRV forums and conference			
<b>Does the proposals involve the procurement of any goods or services?</b>			<b>No</b>	
<b>If yes please confirm that you have contacted our procurement services to discuss your requirements.</b>			<b>No</b>	
<b>SCREENING</b>				
<i>You must indicate if there is any relevance to the four areas</i>				
<b>Duty to eliminate discrimination (E), advance equal opportunities (A) or foster good relations (F)</b>			<b>No</b>	
<b>Relevance to Human Rights (HR)</b>			<b>No</b>	
<b>Relevance to Health Impacts (H)</b>			<b>No</b>	
<b>Relevance to Social Economic Impacts (SE)</b>			<b>Yes</b>	
<b>Who will be affected by this policy?</b>				
Any business operating with WDC that is entitled to EPR. At the time of drafting this EIA the council has a total 3171 NDR properties of which 108 are in receipt of EPR				
<b>Who will be/has been involved in the consultation process?</b>				
WDC Regulatory and Regeneration Services; other councils have been consulted as to their intentions through discussions at IRRV forums and conference				
<b>Please outline any particular need/barriers which equality groups may have in relation to this policy list evidence you are using to support this and whether there is any negative impact on particular groups.</b>				

	Needs	Evidence	Impact
Age			
Cross Cutting			
Disability			
<b>Social &amp; Economic Impact</b>	The Council needs to take into account Fairer Scotland Duty in this circumstance	There is no change proposed to the current empty property relief scheme this status.	The policy will not have any different impact from that of previous arrangements.
Sex			
Gender Reassign			
Health			
Human Rights			
Marriage & Civil Partnership			
Pregnancy & Maternity			
Race			
Religion and Belief			
Sexual Orientation			
<b>Actions</b>			
<b>Policy has a negative impact on an equality group, but is still to be implemented, please provide justification for this.</b>			
N/A			
<b>Will the impact of the policy be monitored and reported on an ongoing bases?</b>			
Yes - the use of Empty Property Relief and the thresholds will be monitored and reviewed to be reported to Corporate Services Committee in consultation with Regeneration Services at the end of the first year with any changes being presented to Committee.			
<b>Q7 What is your recommendation for this policy?</b>			
Introduce			
<b>Please provide a meaningful summary of how you have reached the recommendation</b>			
EIA 706: The aim of the policy is to encourage empty commercial property back into economic use while allowing reasonable time for owners to achieve this. The return of empty property, including empty listed buildings, is a measure supporting the aims of protecting the built heritage, streetscape and encouraging economic activity. Whilst this policy is being mirrored with the existing EPR policy, council officers will aim to undertake a review by 31 March 2024 to assess if any material changes to the policy would make it more aligned with socio-economic needs of businesses operating in WDC. The Council had limited time to develop a policy however the analysis does not indicate a need for immediate changes, deviating from the statutory scheme.			