

# Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]



Title: Budget Proposal – Legal Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Proposal R9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Resources	Lead Officer name: Nancy Rollason
Service Area: Legal and Democratic services	Lead Officer role: Head of Legal Service

## Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

### 1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use [plain English](#), avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

## Budget context

Every year, we agree on a budget for the following year which shows how much money we will be able to spend on the services we provide. The money the council has available to spend on delivering day-to-day services to citizens is called the revenue budget. Bristol City Council is required by law to set a balanced budget however we face a large potential gap in our core budget next year. With such a significant challenge the budget cannot be balanced without additional funding, making greater efficiencies (doing the same for less money) or by transforming the way we do things.

The Council has defined statutory responsibilities, but deliver against a far broader agenda, providing universal services benefiting the whole community, and targeted services aimed at individuals, communities with particular needs, and businesses – administered by our workforce, city partners, stakeholder organisations and commissioned services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been far reaching, with a lasting impact on our people and our economy. Our finances are stretched to the limit and up and down the country councils are facing similar funding crisis with less money to keep services going. This is because more money is needed to: help citizens with the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including the economic impact for low-income households; support more people than ever with mental health and social care services; and meet the rising need and cost of home to school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). At the same time, the pandemic saw us receive less income from business rates, commercial rentals, parking, sports facilities, and our museums, shops and cafes – and we expect this trend to continue for some time.

The [Medium Term Financial Plan](#) underpins the Council's financial planning process and outlines the approach we will take to meet the challenges presented by focusing primarily on delivering efficiencies, service re-design programmes which cut across directorate boundaries, and increasing external income and Invest to Save revenue.

## This Proposal

The proposal is to meet the need to make 5% budget savings to the legal services budget by increasing charges for externally funded legal work, and setting a recurring increased income target to reflect this. This proposal relates to work that the legal service undertakes on Major Council projects that are externally funded. The aim will be to maximise income while not impacting on Council funds. The increase in charges are still being formulated in line with relevant financial guidelines and will be reflected in a recurring increase in the service income target.

## 1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	
Additional comments: No impact		

## 1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	[please select]
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No equality impact identified. The proposal is to secure more resource from external funding of Major projects which are being undertaken by the Council. There will be no cost to the Council.
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## Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) before requesting sign off from your Director<sup>1</sup>.

<b>Equality and Inclusion Team Review:</b> <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	<b>Director Sign-Off:</b> Tim O’Gara
Date: 10/1/2022	Date: 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

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<sup>1</sup> Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.