

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]



Title: Budget Proposal - Review Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Management Charges	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Resources	Lead Officer name: Lee Hannan
Service Area: Finance	Lead Officer role: Strategic Supplier Relations Manager

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:

Bristol City Council is required by law to set a balanced budget however we face a potential gap in our core budget next year. With this 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 the UK Government has stopped funding local COVID-19 responses. Up and down the country councils are facing this funding crisis with less money to keep services going. This is because more money is needed to: help citizens with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; support low-income households and local businesses in need of support post-COVID-19; 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) etc. 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.

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.

With the length and scope of PFI contracts, change is inevitable and as such effective management is required to make sure the contract is working at optimum and delivering value for money and the PFI agreements facilitate a recharge for reasonable management costs.

In reducing the liabilities, the Council's PFI resource and activities has been increased, in terms of management and oversight of the PFI group contracts over the last 12 months. This includes monitoring service levels against the agreed output specification, using the tools within the contract to drive financial and operational efficiency for the operational service users, in-house monitoring / auditing of soft services provided under the contract, governance and oversight.

This proposal will seek to ensure the charging arrangements for the PFI group of contracts reflect total costs (currently estimated to be +£25, 000) and continue to deliver optimum efficiencies and contract savings. As such this is intended to be self-funded from the benefits actually realised from this activity.

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:		

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"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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None - the Management fee will be self-funded by the deduction from the benefits realised from the contracts prior to wider distribution of savings to the contract beneficiaries. We do not believe there will be an equality impact because of this.

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 Director¹.

Equality and Inclusion Team Review: Reviewed by the Equality and Inclusion Team	Director Sign-Off: Denise Murray: Service Director - Finance
Date: 22/12/2021	Date: 22/12/21

¹ 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.