

Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.10]



Title: R23 - Unified Financial assessments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Resources	Lead Officer name: Graham Clapp
Service Area: Finance - Benefits	Lead Officer role: Head of 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, the council must agree an annual budget which balances the money we spend with the money we are expecting to receive. Councils across the country are facing financial challenges and based on our current forecasts, we face a funding gap over the next five years (to 2027/28) of up to £87.6 million dependent on the severity of factors such as rising costs of fuel, energy and inflation. This is in addition to the £34.3 million of savings and efficiencies proposals for 2022-2027 outlined in the 2022/23 budget.

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.

To address these challenges we must look again across all of our services to find where we can do things differently to reduce costs, be more efficient in how we do things and, in some cases, stop doing some things entirely.

Unified Financial assessments proposal

Externally commission and/or join up pockets of the same or similar functions across the council that carry out citizens financial assessments (e.g. to determine eligibility for services, exemptions and discounts). This will reduce duplication of application for the customer, improve response time and achieve cost reductions.

This area of activity has the potential to significantly increase should the adult social care charging reforms be rolled out as planned and as a result achieve greater future year efficiencies.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input checked="" 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?

Yes No [please select]

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.

No, there is no change at all proposed to service delivery, it is simply a transfer of the service from one area to another. We do not anticipate that there will be any significant negative impact for colleagues.

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: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	Director Sign-Off: Denise Murray, Director of Finance/S151 Officer
Date: 8/12/2022	19/1/23

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.