

# Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.10]



Title: 23/24-CEN001 Rebaselining Fees and Charges Budgets	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Growth & Regeneration, Children's & Education and Resources	Lead Officer name: Vanessa Wilson, John Smith, Tim O'Gara supported by Sarah Chodkiewicz
Service Area: Various	Lead Officer role: Various

## 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 continuing to face financial challenges and based on our current forecasts, we face a funding gap over the next five years (to 2028/29) of up to £81.2 million dependent on the severity of factors such as inflation, funding changes, and unavoidable service pressures. This is in addition to the £17.7 million of savings and efficiencies proposals for 2024-2028 outlined in the 2023/24 budget and assumed delivery of 2023/24 savings in the current year.

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 are looking across all of our services with a focus on:

- maximising our transformation programmes – where we are looking to improve services whilst achieving the best value for money
- income opportunities – where we are looking to improve our external income and most effectively apply that income

- targeted reviews – where we are looking at services that are comparatively high in cost compared to other councils to see 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.

**This proposal**

This proposal is a review and realignment of the budgets for fees and charges across sources of income that have repeatedly outperformed their approved budgets in recent years.

This proposal does not change existing fees and charges in these areas, nor does it raise any additional charges, it is solely to recognise income that the council has received in the last years that is in excess of existing budgets. This item will ensure that the budgets are realigned to the correct levels and that as a result the budget gap is reduced by the income the council is already in receipt of to ensure further alternative savings are restricted to just the requirement and not exacerbated by unrecognised incomes.

**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: The proposal is expected to have no changed impact to any stakeholders as it is recognising the existing position only.		

**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 changes are proposed as a result of this item – this is simply to rebase the budget in recognition of existing fees and charges being achieved.

**Step 4: Impact**

**4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?**

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This summary can be included in decision pathway reports etc.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary, and appropriate despite this.

<b>Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:</b>
<b>Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:</b>

## 4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

Improvement / action required	Responsible Officer	Timescale
All relevant EqlAs will be published on the Council's website <a href="https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/council-budgets">https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/council-budgets</a> and continue to be updated as appropriate.		

## 4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if you have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective your approach is still appropriate.

Our Equality and Inclusion Annual Progress Reports show what we have done to achieve the aims of our Equality and Inclusion policy and strategy, and the progress we have made including reporting on all relevant KPIs and workforce diversity [Equalities policy - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/equalities-policy)

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqlA. EqlAs 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 the Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	<b>Director Sign-Off:</b> Denise Murray
Date: 09/01/2023	09/01/2024

<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.