

## Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening Form

<b>Title of report or proposal:</b>
Neighbourhood Management and Area Working- Proposed Devolved Budgets 2015/16- 2016/17

<b>Department:</b>	Environmental Services
<b>Section/SIAP unit:</b>	Neighbourhood Management & Area Working
<b>Date:</b>	April 2015

This report is for decision and is therefore subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The following questions have been completed to ensure that this proposal, procedure or working practice does not discriminate against any particular social group. Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment have also been included in the main body of the report.

### Equality Impact Assessment Questions

**1. Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:**

Bolton Council continues to face a challenging financial context. On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 the Cabinet approved a consultation report that set out the options for securing savings of up to £43m over a two year period (2015-17). Following consultation the Cabinet agreed this savings target on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 which was subsequently agreed by Full Council at its meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The target identified:

- **£250k** savings from Neighbourhood Management and Area Working.
- It is proposed that these savings be allocated as follows:
  - **£100k** staff savings/non devolved budgets and
  - **£150k** from Neighbourhood Management and Area Working project/devolved budgets.

The report seeks to agree the funding allocation mechanism and Appendix A and B offer 2 approaches - for decision.

It is proposed that Highways' funding remains at £192k per annum, allocated as a flat rate across all 20 wards.

## **2. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?**

- Staff
- Members
- Trade
- Unions

Residents of Bolton (including those who attend their local Area Forum)

## **3. In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?**

These proposals have been developed in line with the Council's agreed philosophy and approach to savings and efficiencies, and in particular the following priorities:

- "Minimise the impact on our ability to achieve our main aims of ensuring greater economic prosperity for all and narrowing the gap in outcomes, and particularly those in our most deprived communities"
- "Ensure that wider issues around vulnerability, disadvantage and poverty are at the heart of our decisions and any negative impact is minimised".

The funding reduction will evidently have an impact on all wards/groups across the borough. The report outlines how funding is allocated to wards. This agreed methodology is based on increasing the level of targeting according to the greatest level of need/deprivation and describes a clear and agreed framework to guide the important role that elected members have in local decision making and is outlined within the report.

The report outlines a choice of continuing with this methodology as-is (Appendix A), or an alternative proposal to allocate an additional 10% of resources to 'Pot B' – and increases the allocation based on relative deprivation (Appendix B).

It is proposed that Highways' funding is allocated as a flat rate across all 20 wards.



4. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

	Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact?	Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?	Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified adverse impact
<b>Race</b>	The division is mindful that many of the borough's most deprived areas have some of the highest populations of Bolton's BME communities. As such, it is possible that these communities may experience a greater impact from the proposals, although it must be stressed that this impact is predominantly related to geography and issues around socio-economic disadvantage, rather than particular issues around race.	No particular impact is identified for this group. Please refer to the section on socio-economic disadvantage, at the bottom of the table for considerations which relate to socio-economic considerations.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.

<b>Religion</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on the basis of religion. However, the division is mindful of the link which often exists between people's faith and their ethnic background, and also recognises that this can have some relevance to issues of socio-economic disadvantage, as set out above.	No particular impact is identified for this group. Please refer to the section on socio-economic disadvantage, at the bottom of the table for considerations which relate to socio-economic considerations	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.
<b>Disability</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to disability have been identified at this time	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.
<b>Gender (including gender reassignment)</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to gender have been identified at this time.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.

<b>Age</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to age have been identified at this time.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.
<b>Sexuality</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to sexuality have been identified at this time.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.
<b>Caring status (including pregnancy &amp; maternity)</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to caring status have been identified at this time.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group.	No specific impacts in relation to marriage and civil partnership have been identified at this time.	N/A	The proposals have been designed to target the greatest proportion of resource to the borough's most deprived communities, in line with the council's agreed approach towards savings and efficiencies.

<b>Socio-economic</b>	<p>This group may experience an impact as a result of the proposals.</p>	<p>In previous years, significant resource was available for work to improve outcomes in Bolton's most deprived communities. As such, the overall reduction in resource is likely to be felt more strongly in those areas subject to socio-economic disadvantage than in other parts of the borough. However, it is proposed that funds will continue to be prioritised to these areas subject to disadvantage.</p>	<p>The proposals seek to protect the council's work in deprived communities as far as possible in the changed context, as set out in the next column.</p> <p>The proposals have been developed based on the context of reduced funding.</p>	<p>The proposals are designed to target the majority of the remaining resource towards the borough's most deprived areas – both in terms of renewal areas, and pockets of deprivation in otherwise less deprived wards.</p> <p>The proposed framework for managing how the devolved budgets are spent sets out a clear expectation that the majority of funds will be used to improve outcomes and narrow the gap for the borough's most deprived communities.</p>
<b>Other comments or issues</b>	<p>It is acknowledged that the overall reduction in resource will lead to a reduction in funds which elected members can spend on projects in their area. However, it is proposed that remaining funds will be directed towards priority areas and in consultation with residents including those at Area Forums. The proposals have been shaped to ensure that the majority of resource is targeted at the area's most socio-economically deprived communities; and is used to improve outcomes and narrow the gap for the people who live in these areas whom, often experience challenges and vulnerability associated with socio-economic deprivation.</p>			
<p><b>Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys, stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, the consultation manager will upload it on to the corporate database.</b></p>				<p><i>Evidence used:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service Management Information</i></li> </ul>

**5.a Are there any gaps in your evidence or conclusions that make it difficult for you to quantify the potential adverse impact?**

No - the proposals have been developed in line with the council's agreed philosophy and approach towards savings and efficiencies, in order to minimise the impact as far as possible on Bolton's most deprived and vulnerable communities.

**5.b If so, please explain how you will explore the proposal in greater depth or please explain why no further action is required at this time.**

N/A

**You may wish to consider undertaking secondary data analysis, further consultation or research or investigating best practice. If you are planning to undertake further consultation or research as a result of this EIA, please contact the Consultation Manager on ext. 1083.**

**This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)**

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop and rethink - the EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Report Officer**

Name: Sarah Schofield

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Contact No: 24 April 2015

**Departmental Equalities Lead Officer**

Name: Janet Pollard

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Contact No: 24 April 2015