

Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening Form

Title of report or proposal:
Neighbourhood Management and Area Working – Proposed Devolved Budgets 2011/12 – 2012/13

Department:	Chief Executive's
Section/SIAP unit:	Policy, Partnerships and Communications
Date:	28 July 2011

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:

In recent years, the council has had significant financial resource available to support its work to improve outcomes in communities across the borough. This has been funded by a combination of specific grant monies from government and allocations from the council's mainstream budgets. This was delivered through devolved budgets for Neighbourhood Management and Area Fora.

The current financial position means that the previous funding arrangements are no longer sustainable. This is due to the loss of significant sums of government grants, and the pressure on the council's mainstream budgets. This report therefore sets out the proposed model for distributing the remaining budget of £842,000 across the borough's wards and renewal areas. It also proposes a framework for managing how the devolved budgets are spent, to ensure that they are appropriately targeted in line with the council's agreed philosophy and approach to savings and efficiencies.

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

The following groups are likely to have an interest in the proposals:

- Elected Members
- The council's Executive Management Team
- Partners, including Neighbourhood Partnerships, Area Fora and groups from the

- voluntary, community and faith sector
- Members of the public
- Staff and their Trades Unions

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

The proposals are designed to respond to a significant reduction in the financial resource available to support the council's work around neighbourhood management and area working. As a result, it must be recognised that the reduction in funding will have an impact on the level of activity which the council is able to carry out in the community.

However, it is important to stress that the proposed model for distributing the remaining budget of £842,000 has been designed to support the council's agreed philosophy towards savings and efficiencies, in particular:

- "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 minimised".

As such, steps have been identified to ensure that the majority of the resources are targeted towards the areas of greatest need, based on levels of deprivation and population. This would mean that the borough's most deprived areas receive a greater level of resource than the borough's least deprived areas, thus supporting those communities which often experience multiple deprivation and the challenges and vulnerabilities which may be associated with this. The details of the proposed budget distribution are set out in the body of the report, and at appendix 1.

In addition, the report sets out a proposed framework for managing how the devolved budgets are spent, to ensure that the resources are predominantly targeted at projects to improve outcomes and narrow the gap in the most deprived areas of the borough, and within pockets of deprivation in the borough's more affluent 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
Race	We are 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	Please refer to the section on socio-economic disadvantage, at the bottom of the table	Please refer to the section on socio-economic disadvantage, at the bottom of the table	Please refer to the section on socio-economic disadvantage, at the bottom of the table
Religion	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on the basis of religion. However, we are mindful of the link which often exists between people's faith	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	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	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

	and their ethnic background, and recognise that this can have some relevance to issues of socio-economic disadvantage, as set out above	which relate to socio-economic considerations	relate to socio-economic considerations	
Disability	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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
Gender (including gender reassignment)	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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
Age	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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
Sexuality	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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

Caring status (including pregnancy & maternity)	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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
Marriage and civil partnership	It is not anticipated that the proposals will result in a particular impact on this group	N/A	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
Socio-economic	This group may experience a greater impact as a result of the proposals than other groups in the borough	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 for this work is likely to be felt more strongly in Bolton's most socio-economically deprived areas than in other parts of the borough	<p>The proposals have been developed based on the context of reduced funding, both as a result of the removal of specific government grants, and as a result of pressure on the council's mainstream budgets.</p> <p>However, the proposals seek to protect our work in deprived communities as far as possible in the changed context, as set out in the next column</p>	<p>The proposals are designed to target the majority of the remaining resource at 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> <p>The remainder of the resource (the 'flat rate' budget and highways allocations) are to be spent in line with local priorities</p>

				for each ward, as developed with Elected Members and the public.
Other comments or issues	<p>It is acknowledged that the overall reduction in resource will lead to a reduction in the activity which the council is able to deliver. For the majority of the groups in this table, we do not anticipate that this will lead to a specific direct impact on the basis of diversity group.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that this reduction in activity is likely to be felt most strongly in the borough's most socio-economically disadvantaged areas, as these areas were the primary recipients of previous grant funded activity. In order to mitigate this impact as far as practical under the current financial circumstances, 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 and, as a result, often experience challenges and vulnerability associated with socio-economic deprivation.</p>			
<p>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.</p> <p>If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, the consultation manager will upload it on to the corporate database.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the deprivation levels across Bolton e.g. the Indices of Multiple Deprivation • Budget information • Informal consultation with Elected Members

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

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.

Should the Executive approve the suggested resource distribution, it is proposed that Neighbourhood Managers and Area Coordinators will work with Elected Members, partners, and local people, as appropriate, to develop proposals for how the resources could be spent across the borough's wards and renewal areas, in line with the framework set out in this report.

It is proposed that a report is brought back to the Executive later in the year, which sets out the suggested priorities and projects across each area, for Executive approval.

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.

Please see 5a, above.

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: Andrew Donaldson

Signature: ARD

Date and Contact No: 14 July 2011

Departmental Equalities Lead Officer

Name: Sarah Griffiths

Signature: SG

Date and Contact No: 14 July 2011
