

Budget Equality Impact Assessment – pro-forma

This budget Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) checklist will help you and the Council to assess whether there are any negative impacts on customers or stakeholders affected by the recommendations for budget proposals.

It is an opportunity for you and the Council to check whether your budget recommendation leaves those affected by its implementation worse off than they were before the decision was taken. If there are negative impacts, the EIA should specify how these can be reduced or removed. The identification of any negative / adverse impact and putting in place actions to reduce the impact is in line with our statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender, transgender, race, religion/ belief, and sexual orientation).

The EIA is also an opportunity to promote the positive benefits you anticipate will be received by customers or stakeholders as a result of the budget proposal.

The EIA should address whether these positive benefits are equitable across the range of diversity groups affected by the decision (on the basis of age, disability, gender, transgender, race, religion/belief, and sexual orientation), and whether they contribute to positive attitudes and relations between different diversity groups within the **borough / district – delete as applicable**. As above, if the positive benefits are not equitably received by all diversity groups, the EIA should specify how any inequities can be reduced or removed.

What to do

Your EIA should be started as soon as possible, as part of the process of producing your budget proposals. The Council's statutory Duty to Involve (Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act 2000, Sustainable Communities Act 2007) means that a range of stakeholders including **members of service user groups (don't forget children and young people), staff groups, partnerships, forums etc.** should be involved in service analysis, planning, implementation and review. Please ensure that the evidence on which you base your budget proposals includes this kind of input. If it is not present, identify it as a gap in your EIA and say in your action plan what will be done to address this gap.

Discuss the questions in the attached template with the officers who have been involved in the development of your budget proposals. Identify whether there are any potential negative impacts for any of your customers. If there are, discuss with the group what actions can be taken to reduce or remove these negative impacts for the customers involved. Be specific as to which actions apply to which protected diversity characteristics.

Budget Equality Impact Assessment

Budget proposal	Setting council rents and other HRA budget setting proposals.
Directorate / Service	Communities
Names and roles of the people involved	
Date EIA completed	12/01/11
Date approved by the <i>[insert name of signing group here]</i>	

1.	Who are the customers or stakeholders affected by the budget proposal?
All current and prospective tenants living in homes owned and managed by Melton Borough Council	

2.	Which of those customers or stakeholders (mentioned at point 1) have you consulted with?
The Tenants Forum Executive Committee (Tenants group) will be formally consulted on the rent setting proposals prior to member decision.	
In line with Housing legislation all current tenants will be notified 4 weeks before the new rent levels are imposed.	

3a.	What are the expected positive impacts that customers or stakeholders will receive as a result of the budget proposal?
Rent setting follows national and central government guidance on rent formulae's and adheres to affordable rents level guidance..	
b.	Are there any differential outcomes between different diversity groups arising from the implementation of the budget proposal?
None, rent levels are property related and not related to individuals. Tenants new and existing have at sometime been allocated through the council's allocation policy which has guidelines around equity, transparency and fairness.	
c.	Which groups benefit, and which do not?
All groups are impacted.	
d.	If there are differential outcomes between different diversity groups, how can the outcomes be made more equitable for all diversity groups?

Rent levels are property related and not related to individuals. Tenants new and existing have at sometime been allocated through the council's allocation policy which has guidelines around equity, transparency and fairness.

4a.	What are the potential negative/adverse impacts that customers or stakeholders could receive as a result of the implementation of the budget proposal?
Rent levels will go up on average of 6.30% (subject to member approval) for 2011/12. Any issues of affordability are picked up through the Housing benefit system..	
b.	Which protected diversity groups would be affected/most affected? How would they be affected?
None. . Rent levels are property related and not related to individuals. Tenants new and existing have at sometime been allocated through the council's allocation policy which has guidelines around equity, transparency and fairness.	
c.	How can these negative impacts be reduced or removed? <i>(add these to your action plan)</i>
n/a	

Action Plan

Diversity group	Adverse impact identified	Action required	Anticipated outcome and when it should be measured	Lead Officer	Timescale for action/ measurement
Age					
Disability					
Gender/Gender Identity					
Race					
Religion/ Belief					
Sexual Orientation					
Priority neighbourhoods					
Other associated issues (if appropriate)					

NOTE: All boxes must be completed, and relevant actions must be carried over and included in your service plan