



## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of Budget Proposals

2016

Name of Budget Saving	Increase burial charges
Department and service area	Land & Countryside - burials
Completion Date	22 January 2016
Lead officer	Ricky Moffat

### Aims and Objectives

The aim is to increase the various charges associated with burials at the various cemeteries in Midlothian at a level which brings the charge up to the Scottish average over a three year period. This amounts to approximately 15%.

1. Does the proposed budget saving affect people? Yes

2. What is/are the reason(s) for your proposed budget saving?

The budget saving is put forward to meet the Council's overall budget deficit. Currently our charges are substantially below the Scottish average and the intention is to reduce this gap over a three year period.

### 3. Impact

Which of the protected characteristics\* will the proposed budget saving have an impact upon?

This change will have an impact on all users of the service

<b>Equality Target Group*</b>	<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>	<b>Relevant evidence/ information</b>
Age		People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	Recent press articles have highlighted the increasing cost of burials across Scotland and the difficulties in meeting these costs.
Disability		People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Gender Reassignment		People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Marriage & Civil Partnership		People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Pregnancy and maternity	Premature or early infant mortality are not charged.	People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Race	Grave compass orientation attracts no charge	People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Religion or Belief	Grave compass orientation attracts no charge	People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	
Sex		People in this category may suffer as a result of	

		this charging policy	
Sexual Orientation		People in this category may suffer as a result of this charging policy	

4. How will the implementation of the proposed budget saving be communicated to those affected by any changes? Information will be available on the Council's web site and communicated to undertakers.

This information is available in different formats and in different languages. If you would like a copy in another language or format, please email [equalities@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@midlothian.gov.uk) or telephone the Equality & HR Officer on 0131 271 3658.

5. How will you monitor the impact of the changes proposed? When is the budget due to be reviewed?

The impact will be determined by the number of burials etc that actually take place and whether there is a decrease in uptake. Similarly the number of assisted funerals will be monitored. The proposed increases are proposed to be made over a three year period with close monitoring over that timescale.

This information is retained within the burials section database.

6. Please use the space below to detail any other matters arising from the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process.

Information has been gathered from other Scottish local authorities. The intention is to increase the charges over a three year period until they are at the Scottish average.

Please send an electronic copy of completed forms to [lesley.crozier@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.crozier@midlothian.gov.uk)