

Midlothian



Midlothian Council

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of Budget Proposals

2016

Name of Budget Saving	Community Safety Service Review 2017
Department and service area	Customer and Housing Services
Completion Date	10 October, 2017
Lead officer	Kevin Anderson

Aims and Objectives

1. Does the proposed budget saving affect people? Yes ☒ ☐ No

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

As a result of government funding cuts, the Midlothian Council budget gap in 2017/18 is expected to be more than £5.9 million. This will increase in future years and by 2020/21 it is estimated that it will be in the region of £23.8 million. The Council needs to cut costs and change our service design and delivery to make sure that we are able to deal with the future demands of a growing and ageing population.

The emergence of the Community Justice Partnerships presents an opportunity to review and reflect on the future direction of community justice, incorporating a wider approach to include criminal justice and community safety. There is a need to rethink the wider offender management pathway, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, particularly for vulnerable groups, women at risk of offending and safeguarding communities.

A review of the Community Safety service is proposed as there has been a sustained reduction in the crime rate, incidence of fire events and anti- social behaviour over the past 5 years.

The council continues to work closely with partner agencies to reduce costs and integrate services in working with the Police, Fire and other services to explore the option of providing services from one central location in Midlothian.

3. Impact

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

Equality Target Group*	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Relevant evidence/ information
Age			No evidence
Disability			No evidence
Gender Reassignment			No evidence
Marriage & Civil Partnership			No evidence
Pregnancy and			No evidence

maternity			
Race		Hate crime monitored	
Religion or Belief		Hate crime monitored	
Sex		Violence against Women monitored	
Sexual Orientation		Hate crime monitored	

1. How will the implementation of the proposed budget saving be communicated to those affected by any changes?

The *Shaping our Future* public consultation exercise details the sustained reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in Midlothian, however, we will continue to monitor impact on vulnerable groups impacted as victims of crime or fear of crime or Anti Social Behaviour.

Feedback from the options survey results to be considered in a corporate or service specific exercise.

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

The Community Safety and Justice Partnership aims to ensure that Midlothian is a safe place to live, to grow up in, work and visit. We work with our partners to take preventative action to make sure fewer people are victims of crime, abuse or harm; people feel safe in their neighbourhoods and homes. Our highest priorities are dealing with alcohol and drug misuse, violent crime, domestic abuse (violence against women) and crimes of dishonesty. Other priorities include helping to prevent re-offending and dealing with anti social behaviour (including hate crime), road and railway safety, serious and organised crime, supporting children who may be at risk of harm, adult support and protection, home safety, and

community involvement in setting and delivering community safety outcomes.

The budget is due to be reviewed over the Financial Years 2017 – 2020. The public consultation results were an overall net effect in favour of a Service Review. While there is a sustained reduction in crime and anti social behaviour in Midlothian the trend is reviewed by partners at the Community Safety Partnership Delivery Group each month, and by elected members at the Police and Fire & Rescue Committee.

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

Potential delay in Police attending non- priority reports.

Impact potential with displacement effects on communities, and other council services in Housing, Criminal Justice Social Work, Adult Health & Social Care, Children & Families Social work services.

Please send an electronic copy of completed forms to lesley.crozier@midlothian.gov.uk