

Appendix 6: MTFP (14) Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Adult and Health Services (AHS)

Saving Description	Element of saving with equality impact	Equality impact and analysis	Mitigation
Staffing - Turnover	Staffing turnover assumption	Disproportionate equality impact is not expected. Will not apply to statutory posts.	Further analysis will be carried out if turnover affects service delivery.
Service Provision to other bodies	Targeted review of contractual arrangements	No equality impact.	
Community Alarms – Contribution Removal	Removal of historic contribution towards community alarms in in-house extra care schemes	<p>The contribution is not part of an assessed need, it is a standard charge applied to all tenants in flats in the extra care sites.</p> <p>Potential financial impact on tenants who are mainly older and/or have disabilities if additional costs are passed on by housing provider.</p> <p>It should be noted that in the Extra Care sites where the care is delivered by the independent sector the tenants pay the community alarm contribution. Therefore, the proposed change in arrangement would ensure equity by bringing the arrangements for</p>	<p>Further work to be carried out. Anchor (housing provider) have advised that similar work has already been done in other LA areas, so some wider precedent to explore.</p> <p>If the proposal progresses a joint plan between the council and Housing Provider will be developed to include communication plans for tenants / families which will be implemented jointly. Operational teams will also be updated with information to respond to queries.</p>

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		the community alarm charges in line with the other 3 extra care sites in County Durham.	
Commissioning Efficiencies	Savings in relation to commissioning efficiencies	Commissioned Services will be reviewed in terms of efficiency savings. No specific equality impact anticipated at this stage.	More detailed work in terms of equality impact will be carried out as part of the service review process, if required.

Corporate

Saving Description	Element of saving with equality impact	Equality impact and analysis	Mitigation
LCTR Grant to Town and Parishes	Consideration of a 50% reduction in funding over two years for Town and Parish Councils	<p>A reduction in funding is likely to adversely impact across the protected characteristics.</p> <p>The council is one of a few across the country and the only one in the north east that still pays a grant to T&PCs in respect of LCTR tax base impacts. There are no council tax capping requirements for Town and Parish councils.</p>	<p>This is a grant reduction, not a removal, half of the grant will remain in place.</p> <p>There is an expectation that normal taxbase growth of circa 1% alongside additional tax base income growth from utilising council tax additional flexibilities for empty and second homes will enable the impact of the grant loss to be mitigated.</p> <p>The impact of the grant reduction on individual</p>

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			authorities will be very much determined by the decisions individual authorities make upon increasing council tax.
General Contingencies	None	No equality impact	
Member Budgets	It is expected that the number of members will reduce from 126 to 98 from May 2025. It is forecast that a saving will be realised from total member related budgets.	<p>An overall reduction in Member Budgets will reduce the total investment. This will result in investment being spread across larger populations as the overall number of members reduce and wards become larger.</p> <p>Member budgets cover a broad range of activity therefore there is likely to be some impact on protected characteristics in terms of a reduced capacity to support projects and/or individuals which will impact across the population age ranges.</p>	Although there could be an impact, the level of investment will still remain high with the council Member budgets being higher than the average across the country.

Children and Young People (CYPS)

Saving Description	Element of saving with equality impact	Equality impact and analysis	Mitigation
<p>Home to School Transport</p>	<p>Review of systems, cost and policies for Home to School Transport</p>	<p>Proposals involve passenger assistants for children with SEND, independent travel training, pick-up points, safe walking routes and 'concessionary' fare increases.</p> <p>There are potential impacts (both positive and negative) in relation to the protected characteristics of disability, age and sex (women).</p> <p>A full equality impact assessment and public consultation has been undertaken and Cabinet updated on 14 June 2023, with consultation outcomes, recommendations and actions to address mitigations going forward.</p>	<p>Charges for the Standard and Maintained Concessionary scheme of £2.00 for the 2023/24 academic year aligns with the Bus Service Improvement Plan offer and is lower than the £2.80 fare proposed as part of the consultation. This should mitigate some of the financial impact for working age families, and potentially (disproportionately), women.</p> <p>Programme established to review the needs of those individual children who are in receipt of single person transport and/or a passenger assistant to ensure that the most appropriate transport assistance relevant to their (disability related) needs is provided.</p> <p>Trial of pick-up points.</p>

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			<p>Review of personal budget scheme to ensure it is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Programme of reviews to consider routes which are currently assessed as unsafe and the feasibility of making them safe, as well as the current configuration of school transport journeys with an initial focus on those schools which have the highest number of vehicles and/or cost associated with transporting pupils to their school</p>
Reduction in Historic FE Liabilities	None	No equality impact	
Review of Music Service	A review of the current model of delivery which will include price policy and current accommodation.	Further clarification is required to determine whether the price policy will have an equality impact on families and young people accessing the service.	Further detailed of the review is required as the proposal progresses to understand impact.
Review of Early Years service	Budget commitment to nursery schools is now covered via DSG grant funding rather than the	No equality impact to a change in funding source for nursely schools.	No adverse equality impact therefore no mitigation required.

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	<p>Education service budget.</p> <p>New ways of service delivery are improving efficiencies leading to a reduction in service costs.</p>	<p>Working practices have evolved to include efficiencies without adversely impacting service users.</p>	
Fees and Charging	<p>A review of fees and charges across CYPS, which includes some service level agreements.</p>	<p>Further specific detail is required to determine the equality impact of the review on the services identified.</p>	<p>Further equality analysis will be undertaken as the proposal develops.</p>
Review of Safeguarding Approach	<p>Development of Family Help approach in line with national reform programme.</p>	<p>To create greater flexibility of service proposal</p> <p>There will be no equality impact on service deliver, children who require a statutory service, will receive support within a family help model.</p> <p>Need to review potential for increased workload on existing staff.</p>	<p>Further analysis is required as the proposal progresses to fully assess equality impact.</p>
Review of Early Help Model	<p>Removal of vacant posts and gradual change in service offer linked to Family Hubs.</p>	<p>A review of council funded posts will allow savings to be generated through removal of vacant posts</p>	<p>Further analysis is required as the proposal progresses to fully assess equality impact.</p>

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		and gradual reduction in council funded posts in the service. It is not anticipated that this will have an equality impact, as the review will focus on vacant posts.	

Neighbourhood and Climate Change (NCC)

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Increase in fees and charges in community protection	Increases to existing charges and some new charges will also be introduced.	Further detail is required to determine if any equality impact exists.	
Increased income in Highways	None	No equality impact	
Reduction in PACE Grants and contributions	Reduce grants and contributions to outside bodies	A reduction in grant funding for the voluntary and community sector is likely to impact on protected characteristics in terms of a reduced capacity to support community projects which provide benefit across different groups.	The level of grant reduction is low and conversations will take place with organisations affected to minimise any adverse impact, such as providing support to secure alternative funding streams.
Increase in fees and charges within Environmental Services	Increases would mainly relate to bulky waste in Refuse & Recycling	Although any price increases impacts all customers there is a potential disproportionate impact on disabled and older residents	The service will continue to provide assisted bulky good collections (e.g. from yard/garden rather than

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		due to the fact that they may not be able to easily use alternative means of disposing of bulky waste, such as using household waste recycling centres (tips), and may therefore have no option but to pay the cost of receiving this service.	kerbside) for those that require support and/or reasonable adjustments due to a disability. Assisted bin collections and bin pull outs, are in place for disabled residents (with no other household assistance). The service will ensure the increase in charging is comprehensively communicated.
Review of Neighbourhood Protection	Identification of efficiencies within neighbourhood protection	As the saving proposal develops in subsequent years equality analysis in relation to impact on communities and staff will be added.	If efficiencies involve staff reductions HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment.

Regeneration Economy and Growth (REG)

Saving Description	Element of saving with equality impact	Equality impact and analysis	Mitigation
Strategic Traffic	None	No equality impact.	
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Economic Development	None	No equality impact.	
Planning and Housing	None	No equality impact.	

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Development Management and Spatial Policy	Deletion of vacant posts	No service delivery impact, therefore no equality impact, as the posts have been vacant for some time.	
Culture	None	No equality impact.	

Resources

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Corporate Affairs – Structure and vacancies	Review of current structure.	<p>This proposal does not impact on service ability to provide high quality intelligence and communications.</p> <p>Impact on staff will be minimum as savings are expected to be made through ER/VR and deletion of vacant posts.</p>	<p>HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of staff involved.</p> <p>This proposal will be supplemented by a parallel initiative through a corporate Business Intelligence product which will provide new opportunities for data analysis.</p>
Corporate Finance and commercial services – review of service structures	Staff reduction.	<p>A review of roles in Corporate Finance is expected to enable a reduction in the number of posts.</p> <p>No adverse service impact is expected.</p>	<p>HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of staff.</p> <p>More effective use of Oracle is expected to enable a reduction in the resource requirement in the Capital/Systems /Commercial Team. In addition, our new commercial developments are expected to</p>

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			reduce which could provide an opportunity to review resources. Once Oracle has been rolled out into schools a review of resource can be undertaken and with more effective working across the Team a reduction in resource could be reasonably be expected.
Legal and Democratic Services - Non-staffing reductions	None	No equality impact.	
Digital Services – further review of Service Structures	Review of service structures 2025/26	<p>Realignment of application and digital solution delivery could lead to a reduction in management roles.</p> <p>This approach will ensure no adverse impact on the customer offer.</p>	<p>The equality impact assessment will be updated as the proposal develops.</p> <p>HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of staff involved.</p>
Transactional and Customer Services – Customer Feedback review	Process review with potential staff reductions 2025/26	Customer Feedback and Investigation Process Review with savings aligned to the implementation of process and technology improvements that focus on reductions in demand and increased capacity, without limiting the ability to meet statutory guidelines. This will	<p>The equality impact assessment will be updated as the proposal develops.</p> <p>HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of staff involved.</p>

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		<p>remove/minimise any negative impact for customers.</p> <p>The review could lead to a small staff reduction.</p>	
Comms and Marketing – Durham County News	Durham County News to be online	<p>Proposal affects how we communicate with residents who do not have digital access. Digital exclusion disproportionately impacts the following groups: older residents, people with disabilities and people on low incomes (possibly more women and minority ethnic).</p>	<p>The equality impact assessment will be updated as the proposal develops.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments will be made for people with disabilities where necessary. Adjustments could include hard copies and/or alternative formats (large print, audio) distributed to those residents who request this as an adjustment.</p>
Transactional and Customer Services – Service review	<p>Review of service processes and structures and implementation of a new operating model to support innovation, new ways of working, increased capacity to meet changing levels of demand and effective delivery of strategic and corporate objectives.</p>	<p>The review could provide insight and lead to the delivery more innovative solutions and service improvements for some groups.</p> <p>The review could lead to a staff reduction in 2026/27.</p>	<p>The equality impact assessment will be updated as the proposal develops.</p> <p>HR processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of staff involved.</p>

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Internal Audit, Risk, Corporate Fraud and Insurance – Review of Re-charges	None	No equality impact.	