

Introduction

This document sets out the draft Equality Impact Assessments which have been prepared for those proposals which have been assessed as having a material impact on service users. It should be read alongside the proposals for service change, income generation and efficiencies which are included in the draft Revenue Budget Digest.

An Equality Impact Assessment is a mechanism which helps the council to determine the impact of its proposals. It is particularly useful for determining how proposals will affect groups or communities who experience inequality, discrimination, social exclusion or disadvantage.

Although the Equality Act 2010 does not impose a specific requirement to undertake paper based Equality Impact Assessments, the Council believes this is important to demonstrate that equality consequences of proposals have been considered and ensure that where possible, impacts are eliminated, minimised or counter balanced by other measures.

These will be updated once the consultation process is completed and before any final decision on the proposal is made.

A six week consultation on the budget proposals, both for the public and partner organisations, will be undertaken between 7 November and 16 December 2016 so as much feedback as possible can be gathered. The consultation questionnaire can be found at **www.torbay.gov.uk/consultation**. Paper copies are available at all Torbay Libraries and the Harbour offices. Focussed consultation will take place on proposals where individual service users or organisations are expected to be significantly affected.

In addition, the Mayor will be holding two budget events on Thursday 1 December 2016 at the Grand Hotel, Torquay. They will provide an opportunity to hear about the Mayor's proposals, to ask questions and make comments. One event will be held at 2.00 p.m. with a repeated event at 7.00 p.m.