

Combined Impact Assessment: Full assessment (Part 2)

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Full Impact Assessment has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed major decisions on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make from the 1st April and be able to justify our decisions through any legal challenge.

This full assessment, combined with the initial review, will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposed changes and carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. The Combined Impact Assessment will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

Name: Fran Hughes

Position: Executive Head Community Safety

Business Unit: Community Safety

Department: Community Safety – Community Protection

Date Commenced: November 2012

Date: January 2013

Summary from Overall Proposal

Proposal – Outline	Savings 2013/14		Implementation Cost Include brief outline + year incurred	Delivery In place 01/04/13 If earlier or later state date	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential risks • Impact on community • Knock on impact to other agencies 	Type of decision*		
	Income £ 000's	Budget reduction £ 000's				Internal	Minor	Major
Reduce the number of investigation and enforcement staff within the Community Protection Team. This will result in a 50% reduction in the proactive contaminated land and air quality work undertaken; a further prioritisation of complaints received based on risk and vulnerability and a move towards allocating resources on the basis of threat, risk and harm. Some customers will therefore not receive a bespoke service to investigate their complaints.		47	Redundancy payments at 31/03/2013	01/04/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of customers will not receive a bespoke service as they do not meet the risk and vulnerability threshold; • The data from those 20% will be used as intelligence to monitor trends in activity and allocate resources; • 50% reduction in the scientific work associated with air quality and contaminated land duties • Low risk issues and complaints will not be dealt with. 		x	

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal	<p>A reduction in the provision of community protection services, i.e. complaints relating to pollution, noise, etc.</p> <p>The aim is to focus the work of the team on the highest areas of threat, risk and harm. In order to do this, we will apply a filter to all complaints at the first point of contact which assesses the risk and vulnerability of the client. Those who meet the new thresholds will receive a bespoke service as currently. For those who do not meet the thresholds they will be offered advice and other sources of support, e.g. website, mediation, etc. We will not commence a bespoke investigation but will use the information as part of our intelligence gathering. These intelligence processes will look for trends in activities and risks and be used to allocate resources when they become available.</p> <p>We will be developing the thresholds over the coming months, but the aim will be to reduce the workload of the team by 20%</p>
2.	Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?	<p>Those members of the public who are vulnerable or who have a high risk issue affecting their wellbeing will continue to receive a service when they contact us as is the current arrangement.</p> <p>Those members of the public who are assessed as not being vulnerable or who are not experiencing a significant risk to their well being will not receive a bespoke investigation and will be signposted to other sources of assistance.</p> <p>The wider population of Torbay will be affected by the changes to reduce the scientific work we proactively undertake. We will only deliver the statutory minimum service in these areas.</p>
3.	What is the intended outcome?	<p>The intended outcome is to manage demand to Community Protection and ensure that finite resources are targeted at the areas of highest threat, risk and harm.</p> <p>The Council's statutory obligations in this area of work are under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 79 where the legal duty states:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"It shall be the duty of every local authority to cause its area to be inspected from time to time to detect any statutory nuisances."</p>

No	Question	Details
		<p>All other issues, e.g. fly tipping, environmental crime enforcement are powers of the council but are not statutory duties of the local authority. Hence they will not be investigated unless they have been witnessed by members of the public who are prepared to supply witness statements.</p> <p>Not undertaking enforcement or investigatory activities may impact upon TOR2 and the relationship between enforcement and frontline delivery and service costs. For example, if enforcement reduces then there may be additional costs of clear up by TOR2, and a reduced regulatory deterrent may mean that people are more inclined to flytip.</p>

Section 2: Equalities, Consultation and Engagement

Torbay Council has a moral obligation as well as a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, promote good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The **Equalities, Consultation and Engagement** section ensures that, as a council, we take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty at an early stage and provide evidence to ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decisions/proposals on the Torbay community.

Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

No	Question	Details
4.	Have you considered the available evidence?	We already collect data on demand (Please see the Community Safety Service Review for more details http://www.torbay.gov.uk/index/yourcouncil/financialservices/budget/budgetsummary.htm) and we aim to reduce the workload by 20% based on this new system. We have trialled a similar method of working in private sector housing standards based on an agreed format which the Police use for assessing vulnerability, which has demonstrated that this type of assessment can be practically implemented.
5.	How have you consulted on the proposal?	<p>A public budget questionnaire has been made available on the 2nd January - this has been made available online and at our connections offices & libraries. This questionnaire asks local residents views on this proposal.</p> <p>This proposal was also part of the Priorities & Resources (Overview & Scrutiny) meetings that took place throughout January.</p>
6.	Outline the key findings	<p><u>Priorities & Resources:</u></p> <p>Please Note: The comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are set out in paragraphs 4.10-4.15 of its report "Review of Priorities</p>

No	Question	Details												
		<p>and Resources 2013/2014”</p> <p><u>Torbay Budget Consultation:</u></p> <p>Please Note: This question includes both Community Protection & Street Wardens</p> <p>Q5) Do you support this proposal?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>228</td> <td>78.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>63</td> <td>21.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>291</td> <td>100.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Most respondents (78.4%) support the proposal to reduce the community protection budget by reducing the amount of work carried out on pollution, prioritising services to vulnerable people and reducing the number of street wardens.</p> <p>Respondents who said no, they did not support the proposal were asked to say why they didn't support it. Key issues from these responses with examples of comments regarding the proposal are outlined in the Torbay Budget Consultation report.</p> <p>Please see Torbay Budget Consultation Report 2013 – 14 for more information</p>		Number	Percent	Yes	228	78.4%	No	63	21.6%	Total	291	100.0%
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Yes	228	78.4%												
No	63	21.6%												
Total	291	100.0%												
7.	What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?	To be considered following ratification at Full Council												

Positive and Negative Equality Impacts

No	Question	Details
8.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific	

No	Question	Details		
	groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact
	All groups in society generally		Low risk issues and complaints will not be dealt with but we will have regard to all the information which we receive and will use it to make sure we identify trends or patterns of environmental issues and areas which require a more detailed investigation.	Those who are affected by a high risk issue or who are vulnerable will still receive the same level of service as currently. The filter system will be based on risk and the vulnerability of the individual; therefore there should be a neutral impact on most clients.
	Older or younger people			No differential impact
	People with caring responsibilities			No differential impact
	People with a disability			No differential impact
	Women or men			No differential impact
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)			No differential impact
	Religion and Belief			No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
	People who are transgendered			No differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact

No	Question	Details	
	Socio-economic (including child poverty)		No differential impact
9.	Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations?	<p>In the development of this proposal, we have tried to balance the reality of a significant cut in Central Government funding to protect the most vulnerable members of our community as far as possible.</p> <p>By virtue of the fact that we will prioritise cases which are high risk or where the client is vulnerable, we will ensure that those who need the service most will continue to receive it. All other clients will be able to report their concerns and we will monitor this information and ensure it is turned into intelligence to enable the Business Unit to deploy its resources to best effect.</p>	

Section 3: Steps required to manage the potential impacts identified

No	Action	Details	
10.	Summarise any positive impacts and how they will be realised most effectively?	Vulnerable clients and those with high threat, risk and harm will receive a priority service.	
11.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	In the development of this proposal, we have tried to balance the reality of a significant cut in Central Government funding to protect the most vulnerable members of our community as far as possible. The proposal recognises the need for additional support based on threat, risk and harm and the vulnerability of the client involved. We are aware of high profile cases, such as the Pilkington Serious Case Review (SCR), and the assessment matrix will take this into account. The vulnerability matrix is based on best practice and is already in use by the police	

Section 4: Recommended Course of Action

No	Action	Details	
12.	State a recommended course of action	Outcome 1: No major change required - EIA has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.	

	[please refer to action plan]	<p>The matrix which assesses risk and vulnerability will be kept under review and cross referenced with the intelligence received to ensure that those who need services continue to receive them. The impact on TOR2 will also be monitored through regular dialogue as part of existing arrangements.</p> <p>It is recommended that this proposal is implemented.</p>
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Section 5: Monitoring and Action Plan

No	Action	Details
13.	Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals	The new intelligence based model will act as a check and balance on the effectiveness of the assessment matrix.

Action plan

No.	Action	Reason for action / contingency	Resources	Responsibility	Deadline date
2	Utilise the new intelligence model to assess the effectiveness of the risk and vulnerability matrix.	To ensure that the threshold is set at an appropriate level.	Officer time	Community Safety Business Unit	Quarterly
3	Meet regularly with TOR2 to assess the impact of the changes and ensure that there are no unintended consequences	To ensure that there are no unintended consequences from the councils actions	Officer time	Community Safety Business Unit	Quarterly as part of existing contract monitoring arrangements.