

Budget Proposals 2014/15 and 2015/16: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA): Community Partnerships

Officer Name:	Fran Hughes	Position:	Executive Head Community Safety
Business Unit:	Community Safety	Directorate:	Public Health
Executive Lead(s):	Councillor Robert Excell	Date:	6th February 2014

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of their proposals on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make while mitigating against any negative or adverse impacts on particular groups across our communities.

This EIA will evidence that the Council have fully considered the impact of the proposed changes and has carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. This EIA and the evidence provided within it will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

Executive Lead / Head Sign off:

Executive Lead(s)	Councillor Robert Excell	Executive Head:	Fran Hughes
Date:		Date:	

Summary from Overall Budget Proposals:

Proposals – Outline	Savings for 2014/15 and 2015/16		Implementation Cost <i>Include brief outline + year incurred</i>	Delivery <i>When will this proposal realise income / savings</i>	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential risks</i> • <i>Impact on community</i> • <i>Knock on impact to other agencies</i> 	Type of decision		
	Income £	Budget reduction £				Internal	Minor	Major
Cease to provide Community Partnerships with funding		34,500	NIL	01/04/14	There is no statutory requirement to fund Community Partnerships. Last year the council reduced the community partnership funding by 50%. It is proposed that the funding now ceases altogether.		X	

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	<p>Clearly set out the proposal and what is the intended outcome.</p>	<p>Community Partnerships were set up as a network of community representatives in every Ward in Torbay, they provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Torbay to discuss issues of common concern, influence the way in which services are provided and improve their local area.</p> <p>Community Partnerships have traditionally been funded by the council since they were set up approximately 10 years ago. In the 12/13 budget setting process their funding was reduced by 50% to £32,000. This funding was given to the Community Partnership Management Board for them to allocate between the partnership as they felt was appropriate. Since that time the Community Partnership have set themselves up as a Limited Company with a new governance structure. The Community Partnerships have remained extremely active since this previous reduction in budget, and rely on volunteers in each geographical area to support their ongoing work.</p> <p>The proposal is to cease to provide funding for Community Partnerships from 1st April 2014.</p>
2.	<p>Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?</p>	<p>This proposal will negatively affect Torbay Community Partnerships Limited and each geographically based community partnership –as their ability to fund locally based initiatives will be reduced. However, the Community Partnership Board will need to support the priorities of the partnership and seek funding from other sources in order to support the long term sustainability of their work.</p> <p>Community Partnerships give a voice for the population of their wards including people from hard to reach and vulnerable groups, there is the potential that the community may not be able to access their Community Partnership as easily if the partnerships are not able to source alternative forms of funding.</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
3.	Have you considered the available evidence?	<p>The Community Partnerships are a network of community representatives in every Ward in Torbay, and there are 16 in total; 9 in Torquay, 5 in Paignton and 2 in Brixham.</p> <p>The Partnerships are run by 160 volunteers, estimated as an in kind contribution of £35,000 to the community. Residents' participation in Community Partnership activities varies from time to time and between areas, but a telephone survey of 2,001 residents undertaken in 2010 indicated that 49% of respondents knew about the Torbay Community Partnerships and 15% of those said that they had attended a meeting or event. At today's population rate that would be equivalent to 10,000 residents being involved in a community partnership. (The overall confidence interval for the survey assuming maximum variance in was +/- 2.1% at 95%).</p> <p>In the last 10 years the Community Partnerships have brought over £600,000 of external funding into the Bay, and have conducted over 200 consultations to inform local service provision. They have built 2 parks, implemented 2 public realm improvements projects, established two information and advice centres, set up one community shop, and run over 100 other community based projects.</p> <p>The Partnerships were positively evaluated by PriceWaterhouseCoopers in 2004 and by the then Government Office of the South West in 2010.</p> <p>The Community Partnerships have now set themselves up as a limited company and are therefore a more stable structure than was previously the case. However, they are also reliant on external funding sources. The Community Partnerships are administering the ~Community First national grant funding arrangements locally. -They also act as the key conduit for certain funding streams in areas of deprivation eg the Community First programme. As well as supporting</p>

No	Question	Details															
		localities with funding, the Community Partnerships are the focal point for most of the statutory agencies when they are undertaking community engagement activities and Community Partnerships are active contributors to wider social change through their representation on a large number of partnership bodies across Torbay e.g. Policy Development Group (Communities), Stronger Communities Board, Ageing Better Partnership.															
4.	How will / have you consulted on the proposal?	<p>On the 28th November 2013, the Trustees of the Torbay Community Partnership had a Board meeting and one of the items discussed was future of Torbay Council's funding. This meeting followed an email consultation with the 160 Steering Group members of the Partnership initiated on the 23rd November. The result of this discussion was that the Board recognised the fact that Torbay Council's funding is going to cease (the Board have advised that they had been planning for this event), and therefore they have decided not to challenge the proposal.</p> <p>Consultation on this proposal was also undertaken through the Mayor's Budget Consultation. People were asked whether they agreed with the proposal to cease the funding to the Community Partnerships – the following responses were given:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1066 727 1626 1023"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1066 727 1294 842">Do you support this proposal?</th> <th data-bbox="1294 727 1464 842">Number</th> <th data-bbox="1464 727 1626 842">Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1066 842 1294 887">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1294 842 1464 887">277</td> <td data-bbox="1464 842 1626 887">67.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1066 887 1294 932">No</td> <td data-bbox="1294 887 1464 932">80</td> <td data-bbox="1464 887 1626 932">19.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1066 932 1294 976">No response</td> <td data-bbox="1294 932 1464 976">52</td> <td data-bbox="1464 932 1626 976">12.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1066 976 1294 1023">Total</td> <td data-bbox="1294 976 1464 1023">409</td> <td data-bbox="1464 976 1626 1023">100.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please see appendix one for further results.</p>	Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent	Yes	277	67.7	No	80	19.6	No response	52	12.5	Total	409	100.0
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Yes	277	67.7															
No	80	19.6															
No response	52	12.5															
Total	409	100.0															
5.	Outline the key findings	As above – please see appendix one for further results.															

No	Question	Details
6.	What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?	None

Positive and Negative Equality Impacts

No	Question	Details		
7.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people		The demographic of membership of community partnership tends to be the older population, and therefore older people may be negatively impacted by the decision. They may have less opportunity to influence general services in their area.	As the community partnerships have now been established as a separate legal entity they could be self sustaining and operate without council support. The emerging Community Development Trust will be supporting the Community Partnerships are part of the new arrangements that have been put in place.
	People with caring responsibilities			No identified differential impact at this stage
	People with a disability			No identified differential impact at this stage
	Women or men			No identified differential impact at this stage
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)			No identified differential impact at this stage
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No identified differential impact at this stage
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No identified differential impact at this stage

No	Question	Details	
	People who are transgendered		No identified differential impact at this stage
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership		No identified differential impact at this stage
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		No identified differential impact at this stage
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		The partnerships provide a funnel for agencies and communities to come together and tackle some of the socio economic problems in each area, The removal of funding may result in having limited co-ordinated responses to those challenges. The Community Partnerships are also the conduit for much wider social change e.g. in the development of neighbourhood plans which directly influence the future direction of travel for Torbay.
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		The partnerships provide a funnel for agencies and communities to come together and tackle some of the public health issues in each area, The removal of funding may result in having limited co-ordinated responses to those challenges. The Community Partnerships really understand the community that they serve. They know who the community leaders are, where there are areas of concern and understand the tensions which may exist at a local level. A valuable source of community cohesion and community understanding may be lost if the Community Partnerships did not exist.

No	Question	Details
8a.	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	<p>There are no other known Council proposals which will impact upon the Community Partnerships.</p> <p>If the removal of funding means that the community partnerships do not become sustainable as they are not able to attract different sources of funding then the wider council and partner agencies may lose an avenue of communicating with the public at a Ward Level. The opportunity for the community to influence decision makers in a coordinated way may also be lost. This may make user consultation and engagement across a range of services more difficult.</p>
8b.	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	<p>There are no known other public service proposals that would impact upon the Community Partnerships.</p>

Section 3: Mitigating action

No	Action	Details
9.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	<p>Through the Community Development Trust ongoing support will be provided to the successful operation of the Community Partnerships. This will be in the form of advice, support and access to a wider network of community and voluntary sector organisations from across Torbay. This will formally be part of the service level agreement that exists between the council and the Community Development Trust. The Community Partnerships will continue to have the opportunity to sit on the partnership boards as currently.</p>

Section 4: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
10.	Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals	<p>.</p> <p>Regular liaison with the Community Partnerships Limited and the Community Development Trust.</p>

Section 5: Recommended course of action –

No	Action	Outcome	Tick ✓	Reasons/justification for recommended action
11.	State a recommended course of action	Outcome 1: No major change required - EIA <i>has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken</i>	✓	<i>No further action required.</i>
		Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers – <i>Action to remove the barriers identified in relation to equalities have been taken or actions identified to better promote equality</i>		
		Outcome 3: Continue with proposal - Despite <i>having identified some <u>potential</u> for adverse impact / missed opportunities in relation to equalities or to promote equality. Full justification required, especially in relation to equalities, in line with the duty to have 'due regard'.</i>		
		Outcome 4: Stop and rethink – EIA has <i>identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination in relation to equalities or adverse impact has been identified</i>		

APPENDIX ONE:

Community Safety Budget Proposals:

Community Safety: Current Net Budget 2013/14: £2.24 million

Savings proposed for 2014/15 and 2015/16: £477,000

Q7) Cease to provide funding for Community Partnerships

The proposal is to cease to provide funding to the Community Partnerships. This is expected to save £34,500 over two years.

Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent
Yes	277	67.7
No	80	19.6
No response	52	12.5
Total	409	100.0

73 respondents made comments related to the proposal. These have been summarised into themes below:

Category	Examples of comments – where respondents said ‘No’ above
Represents the community	<p><i>“These are another low cost way of achieving things at the local level. With imagination, they could take up some of the gap left by reductions in other services, especially those relating to the environment, and harness the increased input of local people.”</i></p> <p><i>“Community partnerships represent the communities’ interest and should be funded.”</i></p> <p><i>“Community Partnerships are now a key part of local organisation, including local plans.”</i></p>
Vital service	<p><i>“Community Partnerships have only just become established and are a useful tool of communication with the council.”</i></p> <p><i>“The unpaid work in support, help, guidance and community involvement given by these organisations is too great to abandon and is the key to family and individual support.”</i></p>
Other	<p><i>“Minimal savings, what impact on the community?”</i></p>