

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Budget Reduction Proposal - Reduction of Ward Forum Meetings across the 69 wards in the City

Reference: EIA000351



 **RESET**

 **RESHAPE**

 **RESTART**

EIA Form – About your EIA

Reference number	EIA000351
Date Submitted	05/02/2024
Subject of the EIA	Budget Reduction Proposal - Reduction of Ward Forum Meetings across the 69 wards in the City



Brief description of the policy, service or function covered by the EIA

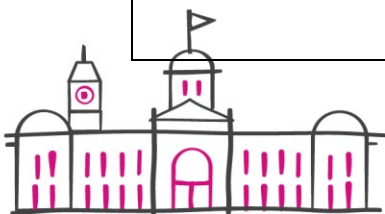
The co-ordination of ward forum meetings is carried out by the Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit (NDSU) through its community governance function. Currently the NDSU offer is to support 4 general ward forum meetings per ward per municipal year plus 2 meetings linked to ward action planning. The proposed reduction is to 3 meetings per ward per municipal year and integrating the ward action planning process. Ward Forum Meetings and Ward Action Planning function is a requirement as outlined in the Council's Constitution as follows:-

10.1 Role

- i. Ward Forums will be constituted to encourage and facilitate dialogue between the Council and local people within their area.
- ii. The Council will establish (or dissolve) Ward Forums on the recommendation of the Council Business Management Committee.
- iii. Members will provide community leadership at the ward level, in particular through engaging the local community and identifying very local issues and priorities (for example through Neighbourhood Tasking meetings).

10.2 Functions

- i. In conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Members, the role of Ward Forums is to:
 - a) Develop through local engagement and discussion and then adopt and approve a “Ward Plan and Priorities” setting out locally determined priorities and issues.
 - b) Provide a forum for community engagement in decisions affecting the local area (through regular meetings including neighbourhood forums, residents’ associations, parish, community or neighbourhood councils and other local organisations).
 - c) To advise or make representations to the Council, the Executive or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee on all matters affecting community interests, working in conjunction with Cabinet Members to provide improved accountability in council and other public services within the area and to support the work of Overview and Scrutiny committees as appropriate.
 - d) Make comments on behalf of residents on significant planning applications within the ward or which have an impact on the ward, subject to the appropriate planning timescales.
 - e) Co-ordinate the work of councillors with neighbourhood forums, residents associations and neighbourhood, community or parish councils to enable local community engagement, debate and action in relation to local issues and priorities.
 - f) Plan work with the other wards or ward clusters to engage with partners such as the police and to work on matters that must be addressed over a larger geographical area.
 - g) Develop and support the community leadership role of councillors and others in the area. This includes in relation to governance, commuting planning,



	<p>local dialogue, partnership, commissioning and accountability. h) Work with appropriate ward contact officers to ensure that council services are responsive to local needs and priorities. i) Promote and influence service improvement, service integration and a focus on prevention across the whole of the local public sector and to consider the performance, integration and co-ordination of public services in the area and make recommendations to the Executive and to the council's partners as appropriate. j) Work in partnership with all local stakeholders to further the needs and priorities of local residents. k) Ensure that city wide and city regional levels of decision making have a good understanding of local needs and priorities in different parts of the city. l) Promote community empowerment and active citizenship and a diversity of local service provision, including community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises and to develop positive working relationships with parish, neighbourhood or community councils. m) To promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. n) Working to advance the council's policies on local leadership and with other Ward Forums to progress issues across a larger geographical area . The reduction does not impact disproportionately to any one protected characteristic .</p>
Equality Assessment is in support of...	["Amended function", "Amended service"]
How frequently will you review impact and mitigation measures identified in this EIA?	No preference
Due date of the first review	2025-03-31

Directorate, Division & Service Area

Which directorate(s) are responsible for this EIA?	["City Operations"]
Division	Neighbourhoods
Service area	Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit
Budget Saving	Yes

Officers

Responsible officer	Karen Cheney
Accountable officer	Chris Jordan

Data Sources



Data sources	["Birmingham City Observatory data and insight", "Relevant reports/strategies", "Ward data that NDSU have kept for the last 5+ years as it is a key performance indicator for the Council"]
Data source details	Ward Forum Meetings and Ward Action Plans - information is kept the regularity of meetings and attendances as well ward action plans and priorities - completed plans are on the Council's website. Part of the current Council Constitution as already outlined and integral part of the Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods Policy statement - 2019

Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic – Age

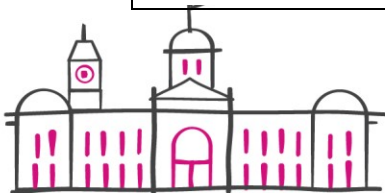
Does this proposal impact people due to their age as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What age groups are impacted by your proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the age characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the age characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic – Disability

Does this proposal impact those people with a disability as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
Please describe the impact to the disability characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the disability characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic – Sex

Does this proposal impact citizens based on their sex as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What sexes will be impacted by this proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the sex characteristic	N/A



How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sex characteristic?	N/A
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Protected Characteristic - Gender Reassignment

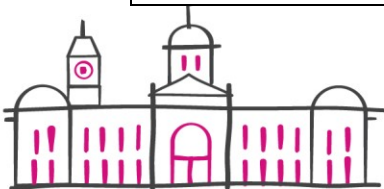
Does this proposal impact people who are proposing to undergo, undergoing or have undergone a process to reassign one's sex as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
Please describe the impact to the gender reassignment characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the gender reassignment characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic - Marriage and Civil Partnership

Does this proposal impact people who are married or in a civil partnership as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What legal marital or registered civil partnership status will be impacted by this proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the marriage and civil partnership characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the marriage and civil partnership characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy and Maternity

Does this proposal impact people covered by the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristic of pregnancy and maternity?	No
Please describe the impact to the pregnancy and maternity characteristic	N/A



How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the pregnancy and maternity characteristic?	N/A
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Protected Characteristic - Ethnicity and Race

Does this proposal impact people due to their race as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What ethnic groups would be impacted by this proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the ethnicity and race characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the ethnicity and race characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic - Religion or Beliefs

Does this proposal impact people's religion or beliefs as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What religions could be impacted by this proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the religion or beliefs characteristic	N/A
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the religion or beliefs characteristic?	N/A

Protected Characteristic - Sexual Orientation

Does this proposal impact people's sexual orientation as per the Equality Act 2010?	No
What sexual orientations may be impacted by this proposal?	N/A
Please describe the impact to the sexual orientation characteristic	N/A



How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sexual orientation characteristic?	N/A
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Monitoring

How will you ensure any adverse impact and mitigation measures are monitored?	As previously mentioned although there is a general impact across the City with a reduced number of ward forum meetings it does not impact disproportionately to any one protected characteristic. Given that there will still be 3 meetings per year the potential impact will be mitigated. Continued engagement at the remaining ward forum meetings involving local councillor(s), residents and key stakeholders in all 69 wards which NDSU will continue to co-ordinate, support and monitor - including an adverse impacts. It is also an expectation that the corporate centre will also be monitoring all adverse impacts and mitigation measures for all of the budget reduction proposals, including this one.
Please enter the email address for the officer responsible for monitoring impact and mitigation	NDSU@birmingham.gov.uk

