

Section 1: Summary details

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| <p>Directorate and Service Area</p> | <p>All Directorates and Service Areas</p> |
| <p>What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).</p> | <p>This assessment sets out the overall impact that the budget and business planning proposals have on a range of equality and diversity characteristics, including the nine protected characteristics defined under the Equality Act 2010, and sets out any mitigations that have been put in place against possible negative impacts.</p> |
| <p>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</p> | <p>This impact assessment provides an overview of the 2022/23 budget and business planning proposals and so comments on changes to existing programmes as well as new proposals.</p> |
| <p>Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).</p> | <p>This assessment covers the overall budget and business planning proposal for Cherwell District Council and seeks to highlight key evidence and intelligence that the Council has used to assess the impact of its budget proposals on the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The Council has also assessed the impact on those living in rural areas, those living with social deprivation, armed forces communities and carers.</p> <p>An initial review of all proposals was completed by the corporate policy team to review the impact of savings and determine where mitigations would be required. Individual Equality Impact Assessments will be finalised following approval of budget proposals for any required policy change that could have a negative impact.</p> <p>The assessment has not identified any bias, unfair advantage or disadvantage to any groups or individuals. Where potential negative impacts have been identified, mitigations have been put in place to reduce impact.</p> |
| <p>Completed By</p> | <p>Emily Schofield, Acting Head of Strategy</p> |
| <p>Authorised By</p> | |
| <p>Date of Assessment</p> | <p>November 2021</p> |

Section 2: Detail of proposal

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| <p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p> | <p>The Council’s budget and business planning proposals are designed to enable us to deliver the key priorities in our Business Plan to enable communities to thrive and businesses to grow. Our strategic priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - housing that meets your needs - leading on environmental sustainability - an enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres - healthy, resilient and engaged communities <p>This budget and business planning round has been impacted by reduction or ongoing uncertainty in major funding streams including the New Homes Bonus Grant and Business Rates. In addition, significant budget pressures have arisen due to reduction in income due to Covid-19, alongside the additional costs incurred. In combination this is resulting in a challenging budgeting and business planning process as set out in the main Budget and Business Planning reports.</p> |
| <p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p> | <p>This impact assessment covers all savings proposals across Public Health and Wellbeing, Place and Growth, Commercial Development, Assets and Investment, Communities, Adults and Housing, Regulatory Services, Customers and Organisational Development. Details of proposals are set out in the main Budget and Business Planning proposals.</p> <p>Changes to fees and charges are addressed in the associated Fees and Chares schedule. Any increase to fees and charges may impact on those with more need to use a service, including due to an individual having one or more of the protected characteristics. Changes to fees and charges are proposed after consideration of inflation, service need, bench-marking and market opportunities. Where material service impact has been assessed from changes in charges these will be addressed through the equality impact assessment process that supports decision making on the budget and business planning report or the later specific decision making process associated with review and any subsequent proposed change.</p> |
| <p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> | <p>In considering the impact of budget proposals before they are formally agreed, the Council undertakes a detailed process of democratic and community engagement. This includes:</p> |

Appendix 4

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| <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of health and wellbeing needs, and the associated Equalities Briefing and Cherwell District Profile to consider the impact of proposals as they are drawn up and in the development of this overarching assessment. The Council's JSNA can be found here;• A public consultation process, the results of which are published alongside the Budget and Business Planning proposals;• A democratic process including agreement of proposals by Executive, analysis and comment on those proposals by Budget and Business Planning Committee, and adoption of the budget by Full Council. Each of these stages provides an opportunity to invite comment and engagement from the public and representatives of particular organisations or population groups. |
| <p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p> | |

Age: In mid-2020 there were 151,800 residents in the Cherwell district, 3,829 of which were aged 85+. Cherwell's population is ageing with the 85+ population predicted to increase by 88% by 2037. There were 43,153 people aged under 25 in Cherwell in 2019 (28.5% of the total population), this is slightly lower than the figure for the rest of the county where around 30.5% of the population is aged under 25.

There are have been no specific issues identified as likely to arise as a result of the majority of proposals however the proposal towards reduction in CCTV funding could have an impact on all age groups and has been captured in its individual EIA.

Disability: Around 19% of the South East population have a disability, Oxfordshire is slightly lower than the regional average at 13%. As of 1 April 2020, there were 1,672 adults receiving long term social care for learning disabilities in Oxfordshire from Oxfordshire County Council Adult Social Care services. In 2020 73,600 adults were diagnosed with depression of which 18,093 were in Cherwell.

The proposal to increase car parking charges are uniform so no bias is made to any member of the community. Those resident on the Blue Badge scheme will not be affected by this proposal.

Gender Identity: There is limited information available on gender identity and data at a local level is not available. During the 2019-20 financial year, there were 445 applications for gender recognition certificates in the UK but this will be under representative of those whose gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. No specific issues relating to gender reassignment have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

Pregnancy and Maternity: There were 1,791 live births in Cherwell in 2020 and is a comparatively higher fertility rate to the county average. No specific issues relating to pregnancy and maternity have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

Marriage and Civil Partnership: Only county level data could be sourced for this protected characteristic. At the time of the 2011 Census there were 128,400 married households in Oxfordshire and 682 registered same-sex civil partnerships. Same sex marriage became legal in 2014. In 2017 in Oxfordshire there were 3,224 marriages of opposite sex couples and 79 same-sex marriages. No specific issues relating to marriage and civil partnership have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

Race including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality: In the 2011 Census, 92.17% of Cherwell's residents were white (86.34% English/Welsh/Northern Irish/British, 0.78% Irish, 0.07% Gypsy or Irish Traveller and 4.98% Other white), 4.26% were Asian/Asian British (1.68% Pakistani, 1.18% Indian, 0.13% Bangladeshi, 0.46% Chinese and 0.80% Other Asian) 1.38% were Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and 0.39% were other ethnic groups. The majority of ethnic minority populations in Cherwell are based in Banbury.

The proposal to reduce funding for CCTV could have an impact on race, should the proposal lead to a decrease in service which could impact on the deterrence or evidence capture of hate crimes. Mitigations have been set out in the individual EIA.

Religion or belief: The question on religion and belief in the 2011 Census survey was voluntary and 67.7% of residents in Cherwell responded to this question. 94.2% of those that responded said that they were Christian, the largest non-Christian group stated that they were Muslim (2.3%) and 25% of respondents said that they had no religion or belief.

The proposal to reduce funding for CCTV could have an impact on religion and belief, should the proposal lead to a decrease in service which could impact on the deterrence or evidence capture of hate crimes. Mitigations have been set out in the individual EIA.

Sex: In Cherwell in 2019 there were 75,832 females (50.3%) and 74,671 (49.6%) males. The proposal to reduce funding for CCTV could have an impact on sex, as one in two women feel unsafe walking alone after dark, compared to one in seven men. Should the proposal lead to a decrease in service, this could lead to more women feeling unsafe in Cherwell. Mitigations have been set out in the individual EIA.

Sexual Orientation: There is limited data on sexual orientation defined as people identifying as heterosexual/straight, gay/lesbian, bisexual or another sexual attraction. It was estimated that there was a total of 12,300 people aged 16+ in Oxfordshire identifying as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual in 2018.

The proposal to reduce funding for CCTV could have an impact on sexual orientation, should the proposal lead to a decrease in service which could impact on the deterrence or evidence capture of hate crimes. Mitigations have been set out in the individual EIA.

Rural Communities: Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East at 2.6 people per hectare and 40% of our population live in smaller towns and villages. This impact assessment has identified no specific impact of our budget and business planning proposals on rural communities.

Appendix 4

Armed Forces: In April 2020 there were 9,360 regular armed forces personnel stationed in Oxfordshire and as of March 2020 there were 6,623 recipients of pensions/compensation under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, War Pension Scheme and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in the county. This impact assessment has identified no specific impact of our budget and business planning proposals on the Armed Forces.

Carers: In 2019-20 there were a total of 4,540 carers in Oxfordshire who were registered and receiving a service in the form of a carer's assessment or direct payment from a pooled budget. It is estimated that there are 13,354 unpaid carers in Cherwell. No specific issues relating to carers have been identified as likely to arise as a result of these proposals.

Care leavers: Care Leavers face many challenges as they move into adulthood, such as those relating to careers, education, accommodation and personal change. This impact assessment has identified no specific impact of our budget and business planning proposals on Care Leavers.

Areas of Social Deprivation: Although Oxfordshire is generally considered to be relatively affluent, there are pockets of deprivation and a number of these are located in Cherwell wards. Parts of Banbury Cross and Neithrop, Banbury Ruscote, Bicester South and Ambrosden, Bicester West, Kidlington East, and Launton and Otmoor are within the 20% most deprived areas of Cherwell.

The proposal to reduce funding for CCTV could have an impact on areas of deprivation, as a number of CCTV cameras are based near to these areas, therefore should this proposal lead to a decrease in service, which could impact on the deterrence or evidence capture of crimes, this could negatively impact residents in these areas. Mitigations have been set out in the individual EIA.

The overall budget proposals have been developed with the objective of effectively targeting services so that we continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, including those living with deprivation, and fulfil our statutory duties. All proposals that will have an impact, positive or negative, on any protected characteristic or on rural communities, armed forces, carers or areas of social deprivation, will have an individual EIA completed alongside policy development, to ensure full compliance to our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.