



# Equality impact of 2022/23 budget proposals: summary

January 2022

## Overview

This document provides an assessment of the equality implications of the Council's budget proposals for 2022/23

### Initial assessment: List of budget proposals presented at draft Budget Stage (in November 2021) and summary of equality impact

#### Council Tax (proposed at draft Budget stage)

Service	Description	Initial impact assessment
<b>Revenues, Benefits &amp; Fraud / Finance</b>	To increase Council Tax by the referendum limit (£5 per Band D property)	Potential negative impact identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken.

#### Services: Pay (proposed at draft Budget stage)

Service	Description	Initial impact assessment
<b>Electoral &amp; Democratic Services</b>	Net budget saving and FTE adjustment following a restructure of Electoral and Democratic Services team under one manager (previously two), including changes to grades and working hours of existing staff and appointment of a new Electoral Services apprentice	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	Additional waste crew required due to increased household demand across the borough	Positive; will enable continued delivery of high quality service to all residents
<b>Planning</b>	Deletion of a vacant funded post that is no longer required	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Management Team</b>	Saving that will be achieved via review and proposed restructure of the senior	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided

**Services: Non-Pay (proposed at draft Budget stage)**

Service	Description	Initial impact assessment
<b>Electoral &amp; Democratic Services</b>	Net cost of new Electoral Management system.	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Electoral &amp; Democratic Services</b>	Investment in 'Digital Poll Clerk' technology that will help ensure that the authority is sufficiently prepared for the	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Communications</b>	Reduction in the frequency of publication of Borough News.	Potential negative impact identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken.
<b>Property &amp; Facilities</b>	Increase in business rates costs for council properties	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Planning</b>	Increases in pre-application planning fees	None identified; optional service for relevant development proposals; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	Alignment of budgets with current and forecast income levels	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	Removal of historic budget that is no longer required (Surrey Transit site)	None identified; will not impact on site delivery
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	New arboriculture budget to combat Ash Die-Back within the borough	None identified; required to manage known risk; will not impact on service users
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	Alignment of existing budget with actual contracted costs for Off-Street parking providers	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided

<b>Community Partnerships</b>	Net change in CCTV maintenance savings. Scheme approved at Executive July 2021	Scheme already approved
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	Savings across various Community Partnerships budgets: medium grants, small grants, taxi vouchers, staff costs and partnerships projects	Potential negative impact identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken.
<b>Revenues, Benefits &amp; Fraud</b>	Savings on printing and postage saving by moving to e-billing and publishing the council tax leaflet online	Potential negative impact identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken.
<b>Revenues, Benefits &amp; Fraud</b>	Saving on costs of third party system support for a Revenues & Benefits database	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided

### Government funding reductions (proposed at draft Budget stage)

Service	Description	Initial impact assessment
<b>Revenues, Benefits &amp; Fraud</b>	Reduction in DWP funding and grants	None identified; growth proposed to mitigate reduction in external funding

### Initial assessment: List of further budget proposals presented at final Budget Stage (in January 2022) and summary of equality impact

#### Services: Pay (proposed at final Budget stage)

Service	Description	Initial impact assessment
<b>Neighbourhood Services</b>	Reduction in funding required for dog warden post	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided

<b>Community Partnerships</b>	Deletion of vacant Community Development Worker post	Potential negative impact identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment will need to be undertaken.
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**Services: Non-Pay (proposed at final Budget stage)**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Initial impact assessment</b>
<b>Economic Prosperity</b>	Reduction in expenditure – Town Improvement Fund	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	Reduction of budget saving that was reported in the Nov 2021 budget proposals: taxi voucher budget saving reduced from £43k to £33k in order to retain a budget of £10k which is equivalent to current spending levels.	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided. On this basis a full Equality Impact Assessment for this proposal is not required.
<b>Family &amp; Refugee Support</b>	Updated funding forecasts	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Harlequin Theatre</b>	Reinstatement of Harlequin income budgets in anticipation of increased income following the pandemic	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided
<b>Management Team</b>	Reduction in management team non-pay budget	None identified; will not impact on level or scope of service provided