

Section 4.0
Directorate Business Strategies and Service & Community Impact
Assessments

Business Strategies

1. In 2014 Directorates developed new four-year business strategies for the period 2014/15 – 2017/18 and these have been updated for 2015/16. These set out how the directorates plan to deliver changes in the provision of services over the medium term and reflect the medium term objectives of the Council set out in the Corporate Plan. The strategies include details of both the new pressures and savings and those already built into the existing MTFP to provide visibility of the overall impact on each service area. The directorate business strategies are available on the council's website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/business-strategies-201516>

Service and Community Impact Assessments

2. The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on local authorities that, when making decisions of a strategic nature, decision makers must exercise 'due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.' Oxfordshire's Equality Policy 2012-2017 sets out how the Council is approaching its responsibilities for ensuring that all residents in Oxfordshire have fair access to services and equal life chances.
3. The business strategies outline the changes that will be made to services to find the level of savings required over the medium term. These changes may have an impact on communities and particular groups defined in equalities legislation due to characteristics such as age, gender, and ethnicity, or the groups we additionally believe should be specifically taken into account - deprivation, and geography (rural or urban). While it will not be possible to avoid such impacts entirely given the scale of the financial challenge, we wish to ensure that they have been considered in developing proposals, and mitigating measures put forward where possible.
4. Service & community impact assessments (SCIAs) have been completed for each of the savings proposals. SCIAs are living documents, and directorates update them to ensure they always reflect the current state of the proposal. Any changes to a proposal will have to be assessed for their potential impacts and the SCIA updated accordingly.
5. Key issues arising from the initial assessments, including potential cumulative impact of the budget proposals were reported to the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 16 December 2013. SCIA documents for individual proposals are available on the website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/service-and-community-impact-assessments-scias-201415>

