

**CABINET – ITEM 16 AND 18
COUNCIL – ITEM 15 AND 17
8th July 2010**

Strategic Budget Review and Budget 2010/11

This note is an addendum to the report referred to on the above agenda and is submitted in connection with the reference in the report to work on-going in relation to Equality Impact Assessment. Members are advised that in terms of the ABG reductions and the ramification for service provision, everything that has been identified as 'reduced or ceased service' has had an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), specifically looking at cessation/reduction of that service. These are available should any member wish to have sight of them, and depending on the decision of Cabinet/Council today, will be published.

The outcome of this work is that no discrimination has been found. The cessation/reduction EIAs have identified three common conclusions:

A) Some services are having 'capacity reduced', yet given the reduction the most vulnerable will continue to be protected.

B) That some planned/proposed services will not go ahead, therefore there was no actual benefit to any group in place and that these 'proposed services' were not positive action programmes.

C) Where a 'gap' does materialise, then there has been an 'alternate route' found for service users.

Whilst it should be noted that there will be 'disadvantage' for the community, this none the less does not show, at least for now, that individuals with protected characteristics will be discriminated against compared to other service users.

From an Equality and Diversity perspective, this first round of ABG reductions shows managers clearly protecting the most vulnerable and acting quickly to preserve this. As a consequence, no discrimination has occurred.

Given the speed of potential change arising from government decisions, Directors have spoken to service providers around cuts and identifying cuts and they did have input. However, because of the speed of change, there has only been sufficient time to 'inform', rather than consult.

Whilst the current cessation EIAs did not identify discrimination, they did identify the need to begin consultation in relation to reductions/changes to service delivery. A report is currently being prepared and will be shared with Group Leaders prior to submission to the next meeting of the Cabinet.