

## Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

### Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

<b>Name of Policy/Project/Decision</b>	Council Budget for 2026/2027
<b>Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)</b>	Neil Kissock
<b>Department/Team</b>	Finance
<b>Proposed Implementation Date</b>	April 2026
<b>Author of the EqIA</b>	Lee Cawley (EDI Manager)
<b>Date of the EqIA</b>	28/1/26

#### 1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

Council is seeking to set a budget for the 2026/27 financial year in a continuing period of economic uncertainty. In order to set a balanced budget, savings proposals totalling £15.961m for 2026/27 and additional Council Tax and Business Rates income of £4.770m (net of grant changes due to the Fair Funding Review) have been brought forward for consideration. The LET'S Do It! Strategy for 2030 provides the strategic framework for the Council's use of resources using the four clear principles of:

- **Local** neighbourhoods.
- An **Enterprising** spirit.
- Delivering **Together**.
- A **Strengths-based** approach

From a budget planning perspective, the application of the LET'S Do It! strategy is an opportunity to:

- Empower local people and organisations to seek self-help and community-based support rather than immediately engaging with statutory services. The scale of community potential is now evident through the anti-poverty response, for example, with over 80 organisations active in providing cost of living support and the emergence of the Bury Community Support Network
- Tackle health inequalities through a comprehensive local Wellness offer.
- Take a stronger focus on prevention and harnessing community capacity, which has been at the heart of the adult social care transformation since 2019 and continues within this budget.
- Drive innovation such as through the internal transformation strategy which continues to enable digital-first, more efficient processes, user self service
- Deliver inclusive growth through regeneration in order to reduce deprivation and therefore demand on expensive reactive Council and other public services. Growth also creates the potential for increased income from council tax and business rates receipts, through delivery of a pipeline of brownfield-first housing and new locations for business.

As far as possible budget savings options have been developed which are consistent with the LET'S principles. However, given the sheer scale of savings required, this is not universally the case, and, in some instances, proposals simply relate to reduced controllable spend through a reduction in non-statutory service provision.

However, in the delivery of all budget proposals the Council will be cognisant of its statutory obligations in relation to inclusion, as per the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, and its local commitment as set out in the LET'S Do It! Strategy and Bury Council EDI Strategy and Objectives 2024-28

This overarching EIA sets out the Council's approach to considering and addressing any potential equality implications of the budget and defines where more detailed proposal-specific EIAs will be undertaken

A number of individual efficiency and savings proposals have been put forward as part of the overall 2026/2027 budget setting. These proposals cover a number of areas affecting residents including health and social care, children's services, district car parking and internal council operating functions. EIAs will be undertaken where these could have an effect on residents, council colleagues or partner organisations. These proposals include:

Commissioned Services - review of client contribution limit for day services

Persona Supported living rate review  
 Reduction of Leisure council subsidy  
 Victoria Family Centre delivery model review  
 Burial vault service fees

No proposal put forward as part of the 2026/2027 budget will affect the delivery of statutory services.

**Section 2 – Impact Assessment** (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

**2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?**

**Employees: Yes**

It is possible some proposals set out in this budget will have an impact on the council’s workforce through council workforce structures, changes to services and the nature of work and services delivered by employees and how residents, businesses and partner organisation interact with employees during their work.

**Community/Residents: Yes**

It is possible that our communities and residents could be impacted by some proposals set out in this budget. Communities and residents may see increased, changed, reduced or removed provisions which could impact their day to day life as residents in the borough.

**Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: Yes**

It is possible that third parties operating in the borough and/or partnering with the council could be impacted by some proposals set out in this budget, this could affect the operations of these third parties

**2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation**

**Documentary Evidence:**

**Specific Proposals which could have an equalities impact**

Given the complexity and scale of the budget changes required it is challenging to provide an overall analysis of potential impact. As outlined above, inclusion is a central theme of the Council's LET'S Do It! strategy and, in providing a budget which, to a significant extent, aligns with this vision. Officers have sought to mitigate the impact on protected groups in the borough.

Whilst there is the *potential* for disproportionate negative impacts on protected groups in the above areas, the proposal specific EQIAs will need to explore these in more detail and, wherever possible, seek to mitigate this in accordance with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Overall, the scale of budget reductions required across the Council represents a risk of negative impact on protected groups which will need to be closely managed and monitored throughout the implementation process.

It is recognised that the proposed council tax increase is required for the council to meet its statutory duties and requirements. There is a risk of this having a negative impact on the socio-economically vulnerable and, by extension, other characteristics where there is an accepted link to socio-economic vulnerability specifically, younger and older people, disabled people, people who are from ethnic minorities, care leavers and veterans. The same is also true in relation to the proposed rent increases for tenants of the council's housing stock which are required for the council to meet its statutory duties and requirements as landlord.

The Council's cost of living support, [LET'S Manage Tough Times](#) and wider work to support the most vulnerable residents through our Neighbourhood Teams and overarching delivery of the LET'S Do It! Strategy will provide support to mitigate this impact insofar as is reasonably possible. Individuals and families may need further individually tailored support with paying rent and council tax which will be considered on a case-by-case basis through relevant support mechanisms.

As a council, we proactively identify and help residents with any support available to them including Pension Credits through our Welfare Support surgeries which are held at different locations throughout the borough, along with support identification taking place for struggling residents through the Supportive Collection Pathway.

The council has changed its approach to the collection of Council Tax, introducing a Supportive Collection Pathway, whereby residents struggling to pay are engaged with in a different manner and with officers actively seeking to maximise their income and reduce their Council Tax bill prior to a discussion around payment.

The council will also continue to help and support our most vulnerable residents through the allocation of Household Support

Fund, which the government has confirmed will continue for 12 months from April 2026.

The council website brings together information for residents on a variety of support available.

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/benefits/lets-manage-tough-times>

#### **Data:**

##### **Demographics**

The council's Employment Equality Report 2025 details an analysis of demographics data of the council workforce and the borough's population, taken from the Census 2021. Headline data from the 2021 census told us:

- Bury's population increased by around 8,800 between the last two censuses (about 5%), to just under 195,000 in 2021.
- 33% of Bury's population are over 50
- 19% of people in Bury are disabled
- 0.47% of the population are transgender\* (this question was optional therefore is estimated to be higher)
- 45.3% of the population are married or civilly partnered
- 20.9% of the population listed their ethnic group as a minoritised group with the 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh category the highest at 11%.
- 94% of people in Bury speak English as their main language (compared to 82% in Manchester).
- 48.8% of Bury residents described themselves as Christian, 29% reported having "No religion", while 10% described themselves as Muslim and 6% noted their religion as Judaism.
- Bury's population is made up of 51% women and 49% men
- 3% of people in Bury identified as a sexual orientation other than heterosexual\* (this question was optional therefore is estimated to be higher)
- 9.4% of people in Bury stated they had unpaid caring responsibilities for an adult or child who could not manage day to day without their care
- Based on responses 3% of the borough's populations are armed forces veterans, circa 5,000 people (highest areas had over 10%).
- 52.5% of households in Bury fall under the "Household Deprivation" category in the census.

##### **Care Experienced Children and Care Leavers**

The census does not capture this information however Bury Council recognises care experienced children and care leavers as an additional protected characteristic. As of January 2025, there were 373 children looked after and 271 care leavers in the borough being supported by the council.

### **Number of residents receiving council tax support**

The Council Tax base data in December 2025 showed a total of 7,607 properties in receipt of council tax support with 88% of these being within Band A and B properties.

### **Index of multiple deprivation**

#### **[Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\) 2025 | Bury Directory](#)**

The IMD data shows Bury's 120 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) by income and decile

Of the 120 LSOAs, 13 are in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in the country. These LSOAs are parts of the East, West and Whitefield neighbourhoods

All five neighbourhoods, East, North, Prestwich, West and Whitfield have at least 1 LSOA in the lowest 30% of LOSAs in the country

### **Incomes and Inflation**

The following statistics reflect the expected comparable inflation rates and uplifts in benefits, pensions and pay growth

- The inflation rate as of December 2025 stood at 3.4% CPI and 4.2% RPI ([ONS, 2025](#)) and is expected to fall to 2% over this budget period ([OBR, 2026](#))
- The government has implemented an uplift of 4.1% to the national living wage as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026) [Minimum wage rates for 2026 - GOV.UK](#)
- The state pension uplift for April 2026 will be 4.8 % [Proposed benefit and pension rates 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)
- Average weekly earnings growth, September to November 2025 is 4.5% [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain - Office for National Statistics](#)

### **Stakeholder information/consultation:**

#### **[Budget Consultation 26/27 – Analysis of responses](#)**

**Background**

The consultation for the budget proposals for 2026/27 was launched on 4 December 2025 and closed on the 19 January 2026. The consultation focused on gathering opinions on general budget setting principles, strategies that may be employed to continue to deliver savings through the next year and also asked for ideas around income generation for leisure services.

The survey received 726 responses compared to 282 responses for the 2025/26 consultation.

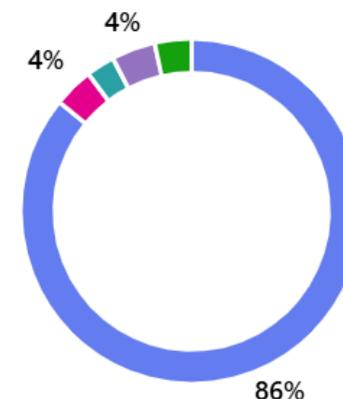
**Demographics and Characteristics**

Please note that the demographics questions were not mandatory and therefore each question may not add up to the 726 total respondents.

- Respondent type

9. Are you a:

● Resident of Bury	665
● Business of Bury	29
● Part of a public sector organisation	21
● Staff member of Bury Council	32
● Other	27



- Demographics and Characteristics compared to Census 2021 and the 2025/26 consultation

<b>2026/27 Budget Consultation Demographics and Characteristics Analysis</b>			
	<b>Consultation Reponses 26/27</b>	<b>Consultation Reponses 25/26</b>	<b>2021 Census</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Asian or Asian British	2%	4%	11%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	1%	1%	2%
Mixed of Multiple Ethnic Groups	1%	2%	3%
White	87%	91%	83%
Other Ethnic Group	1%	2%	2%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	46%	48%	49%
Female	49%	43%	51%
Prefer not to say	5%	8%	
Other	0%	1%	
<b>Age</b>			
Under 18	1.0%	0.4%	23%
18-24	2.0%	1.1%	7%
25-34	7.0%	13.7%	13%
35-44	19.0%	23.7%	13%
45-54	22.0%	20.6%	13%
55-64	26.0%	22.9%	13%
65+	25.0%	17.6%	18%
<b>Religion</b>			
Buddhist	0%	0%	0.3%
Christian	48%	48%	48.8%
Hindu	0%	0%	0.5%
Jewish	2%	3%	5.5%
Muslim	2%	2%	9.9%
Sikh	0%	0%	0.3%
Other Religion	2%	1%	0.3%
No Religion	42%	45%	29.4%
Other	3%	2%	0.3%

Comparing the profile of responses to our census analysis, the outliers are:

- an over representation of White respondents but less than last year and an under representation of Asian / Asian British which is also less than last year.
- Over representation of 35-64 year old age ranges and under representation of 18-24 year old age range (omitting under 18s due to less likelihood of engaging in budget consultations). There has been an increase in responses from the 45-65+ age range compared to last year which indicates an increase in engagement with those age groups.
- In terms of religion, those with no religion over represented and our Jewish and Muslim communities under represented.

By analysing the responses against our census profile, it can indicate the impact of our engagement work around the budget consultation and also provide an indication as to how representative the final outcomes of the consultation are across the whole population.

Consultation analysis by specific characteristic has highlighted:

- Disabled, female and older respondents were less favourable to moving services online than all respondents
- If services were moved online, respondents suggested retaining in person support and phone access for targeted groups
- Disabled respondents also said user experience of online services needed to be improved
- Disabled people and male respondents were less favourable to implementing fees or charges to influence behavioural changes than all respondents
- All characteristics were less favourable about council tax increase but emphasised the need for greater communication of support mechanisms, tools and offsets to reduce any perceived or identified disadvantages
- All characteristics demonstrated support for evidence based spending

**2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.**

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
<b>Age</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to fixed income – pensioners or younger people	Living Wage increase by 4.1% from April 2026 State pension increase 4.8% Both lower than planned 4.99% CT increase	Residents of Pension Age on a low income will receive Council Tax Support. Unlike Working Age recipients, Pension Age recipients can be awarded up to 100% of their Council Tax liability. Living wage and state pension uplift % is over 75% of the planned CT % Uplift Inflation rate expected to reduce to 2% over the course of this budget period	Neutral
<b>Disability</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to fixed income	Attendance Allowance increase by 4.17% Benefit cap to remain static in 2026/27	By disregarding disability related benefits and affording further protection for households with a disability, the new Council Tax Support scheme makes additional provision for those with a disability.	Neutral

			Inflation rate expected to reduce to 2% over the course of this budget period	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No impact			
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No impact			
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No impact			
<b>Race</b>	No impact			
<b>Religion and Belief</b>	No impact			
<b>Sex</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to low household income of single parent family – More likely to be a woman	Living Wage increase by 4.1% from April 2026	Working Age residents on a low income can claim up to 80% of their Council Tax liability through Council Tax Support along with support towards rent payments for those in rented accommodation. The new Council Tax Support scheme provides greater support to families Inflation rate expected to reduce to 2% over the course of this budget period	Neutral
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No impact			
<b>Carers</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to low income	Carers allowance to rise by 3.78% Benefit cap to remain static in 2026/27 Attendance allowance to rise by 4.16%	The Council Tax Support scheme provides additional protection to those residents classed as carers. Inflation rate expected to reduce to 2% over the course of this budget period	Neutral
<b>Looked After Children and Care Leavers</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to low income		Working Age residents on a low income can claim up to 80% of their Council Tax liability through Council Tax Support	Neutral

			<p>along with support towards rent payments for those in rented accommodation. The new Council Tax Support scheme provides greater support to families – including those families containing looked after children. Care leavers receive a full exemption from Council Tax until the age of 25.</p>	
<b>Socio-economically vulnerable</b>	Disproportionate financial disadvantage due to low income	<p>Living Wage increase by 4.1% from April 2026 State pension increase 4.8% Both lower than planned 4.99% CT increase Attendance Allowance increase by 4.17% Benefit cap to remain static in 2026/27</p>	<p>Working Age residents on a low income can claim up to 80% of their Council Tax liability through Council Tax Support along with support towards rent payments for those in rented accommodation. The new Council Tax Support scheme provides increased support for families with children. Council teams will continue to review and evolve the council's welfare support offer, ensuring this is up to date, accessible and inclusive. Living wage and state pension uplift % is over 75% of the planned CT % Uplift Inflation rate expected to reduce to 2% over the course of this budget period</p>	Neutral
<b>Veterans</b>	Disproportionate financial hardship due to low income		<p>Working Age residents on a low income can claim up to 80% of their Council Tax liability through Council Tax Support along with support towards rent payments for those in rented accommodation. The Council has a commitment to not include armed forces compensation</p>	Neutral

			<p>payments or benefit in calculations for Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Discretionary Council Tax payments.</p> <p>Council teams will continue to review and evolve the council's welfare support offer, ensuring this is up to date, accessible and inclusive</p> <p>Council's welfare support offer to be communicated to all staff and members so they can refer residents to support as and when this is needed</p>	
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**Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis**

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
Various	To provide communication to officers and members on the support available, including how residents can access help and officers and members can refer into the service where required.	Chris Brown	2026/27
Various	To continue developing the Council's Welfare offer, ensuring the offer is as inclusive as possible and maximises access to support for our most vulnerable residents.	Chris Brown	2026/27
All	<p>Carry Out EIAs for the following proposals:-</p> <p>Commissioned Services - review of client contribution limit for day services</p> <p>Persona Supported living rate review</p> <p>Reduction of Leisure council subsidy</p> <p>Victoria Family Centre delivery model review</p> <p>Burial vault service fees</p>	Individual owners April 2025	

### Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

#### 3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>No Risk = 0</b>	<b>Low Risk = 1 - 4</b>	<b>Medium Risk = 5 – 7</b>	<b>High Risk = 8 - 16</b>
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<b>3.2 Level of risk identified</b>	2 - Low Risk
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<b>3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation</b>	Whilst it is possible that some individuals will be disproportionately disadvantaged financially by the decisions within the 2026/27 budget report, there are well established systems and processes in place in relation to offering support via various welfare offers, promotion of benefit uptake and relevant support mechanisms.
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**Section 4 - Analysis Decision** (Page 11 of the guidance document)

<b>4.1 Analysis Decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Reasons for This Decision</b>
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed		
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed	X	
There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

**Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions** (Page 11 of the guidance document)

<b>5.1 Sign Off</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager</b>	Dawn Burns	30/1/26	
<b>Responsible Asst. Director/Director</b>	Neil Kissock	30/1/26	
<b>EDI</b>	Lee Cawley	02/02/26	QA Complete: The analysis has identified possible negative impacts across several characteristics. These impacts are mitigated through existing and newly developed support systems and projected economic factors which will contribute to reducing the impacts.

			This analysis will be reviewed as the budget progresses
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**EqIA Revision Log**

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details