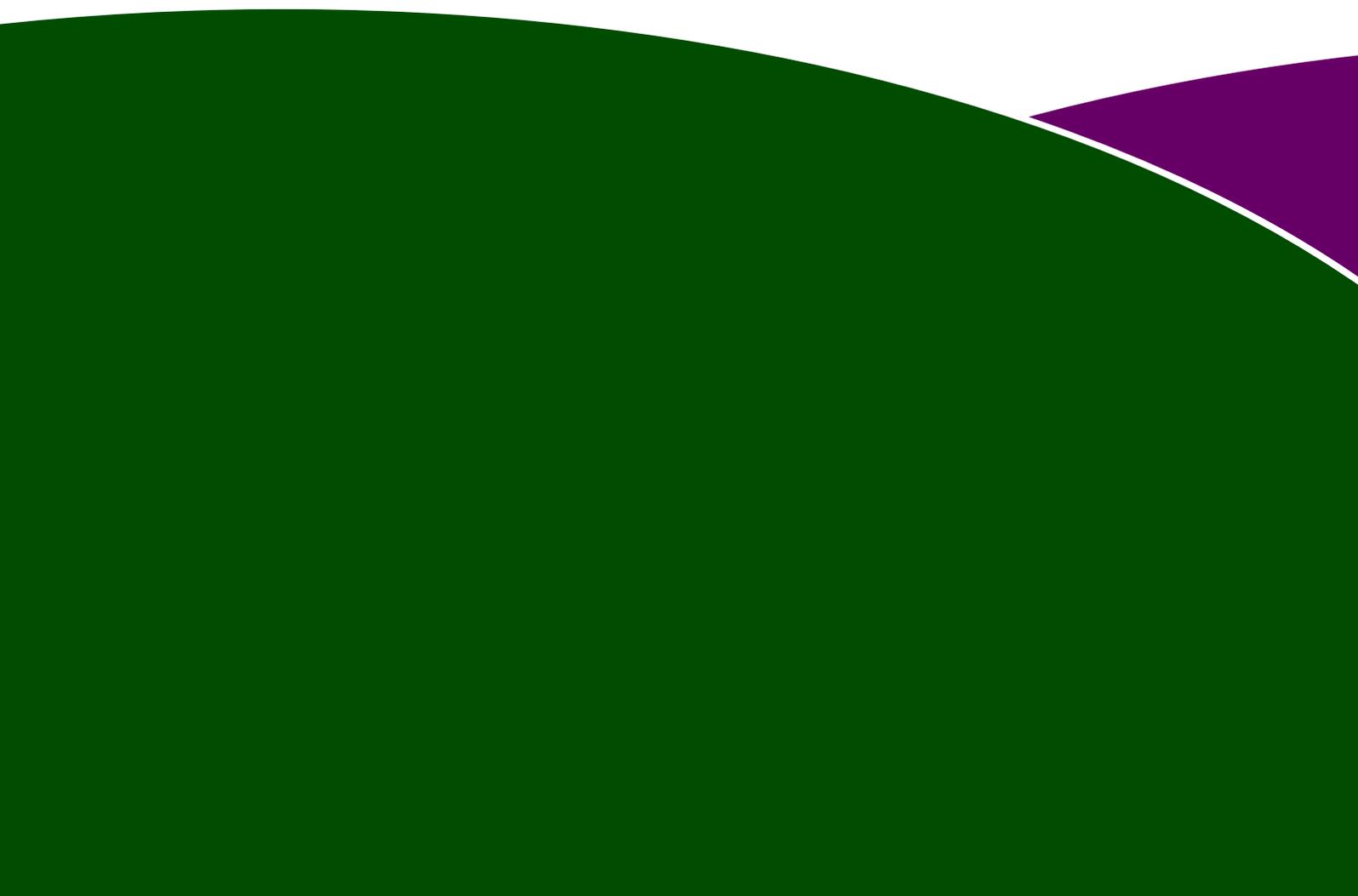


Equality Impact Assessment

MVDC Budget 2017/18



What is being assessed?	MVDC Budget 2017/18
Department	Finance
Name of assessor/s	Phil Mitchell
Strategic Management Lead	Nick Gray
Date	December 2016
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New budget proposals for 2017/18 that have been added to the roll forward of existing budget from 2016/17

Section 1: Introduction and background

Please describe your service or function .

The proposed budget for 2017/18 maintains the existing scope, range and level of service provision.

The proposed new budget will protect services at their existing levels despite reductions in or withdrawal of funding to Mole Valley District Council.

There are five new budget proposals:

- (i) £13k contribution to the county-wide Family Support Programme (FSP)** which works intensively with complex families to support them to address multiple issues that they are facing in their lives. These issues may include anti-social behaviour, truancy, health problems including mental health, domestic abuse, unemployment, and housing issues. The programme also co-ordinates support to Syrian Refugee families arriving as part of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.
- (ii) £25k contribution to the East Surrey Outreach Service (eSOS)** which works with a range of agencies to reduce homelessness and provide support, guidance and accommodation options to rough sleepers with complex needs, as well as prevention for those who might be facing homelessness for the first time.
- (iii) £30k for consultancy work to look at alternative delivery models for affordable housing** - despite MVDC having invested nearly £6m in capital towards 438 new affordable homes developed since stock transfer in 2007/08, there is a commitment to look at new and innovative ways to enable development of more.

- (iv) **£39k for a new Senior Planning Enforcement Officer post** which will contribute to the delivery of a more comprehensive and timely service; raise the profile of the service and act as a deterrent to anyone acting without planning permission; improve response times to challenging unauthorised development; and reduce costs of formal enforcement action.
- (v) **£80k for consultancy support for the review of the Local Plan** which has to be underpinned by evidence to inform decisions on how much and where development should take place over the plan period. Forecast demand needs to be balanced against constraints on new development to best achieve the economic, social and environmental objectives of MVDC.

Now describe how this fits into the Council's Corporate Priorities or other local, regional or national plans and priorities.

The 2017/18 budget proposals reflect the priorities in the Mole Valley District Council Corporate Strategy 2015-19. The Family Support Programme fits under our Community Wellbeing priority outcome of 'active communities and support for those who need it'; and the East Surrey Outreach Service helps MVDC to address its aim to 'support individuals and families who find themselves unintentionally homeless'. The work to be undertaken to examine alternative delivery models for affordable housing feeds into our stated aim to 'identify opportunities to create more affordable housing'. The planning enforcement post will address the Environment priority outcome of delivering 'a highly attractive area with housing that meets local need' and the consultancy support for the Local Plan will help ensure that we successfully 'develop plans for how land is used in Mole Valley.'

If you are not carrying out an equality impact assessment, briefly summarise reasons why you have reached this conclusion, the evidence for this and the nature of any stakeholder verification of your conclusion.

N/A

Section 2: Analysis and assessment

Given available information, what is the actual or likely impact on minority, disadvantaged, vulnerable and socially excluded groups?

Indicate for each of the 'protected characteristics' whether there may be a positive impact, negative impact, a mixture of both or no impact.

Protected characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reason
Age	√			The Family Support Programme aims to have a positive impact on the outcomes for children and young people in troubled families.
Disability	√			The Family Support Programme aims to help those with health problems including mental health issues. The East Surrey Outreach Service provides support to rough sleepers with complex needs which may include various disabilities.
Gender reassignment			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact, positive or negative, on individuals undergoing gender reassignment.
Marriage and civil partnership			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact, positive or negative, on individuals due to their marriage or civil partnership status.
Pregnancy and maternity			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact on women who are pregnant or on maternity leave.
Race	√			The Family Support Programme coordinates support to Syrian Refugee families arriving as part of the Vulnerable Persons

				Resettlement Scheme.
Religion or belief			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact on any religious/belief groups.
Sex			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact due to a person's sex.
Sexual orientation			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact due to a person's sexual orientation.
Other aspects to consider	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reason
Carers	√			The Family Support Programme works with families with multiple issues which may include adults and children with caring roles.
Rural/urban issues			√	It is not considered that the budget changes will have a particular impact, positive or negative, on service users because of where they live.
HR issues			√	It is not considered that there are any equalities issues relating to the proposed additional member of staff for Planning .

What can be done to reduce the effects of any negative impacts? Where negative impact cannot be completely diminished, can this be justified, and is it lawful?

N/A

Where there are positive impacts, what changes have been or will be made? Who are the beneficiaries? How have they benefited?

Beneficiaries of the contributions towards the Family Support Programme and the East Surrey Outreach Service are some of the most vulnerable people in the District - including individuals and families with protected characteristics that have a history of disengagement from statutory services and many have been excluded from all other support options or accommodation solutions due to their behaviour.

Section 3: Evidence gathering and fact-finding

What evidence is available to support your views above? Please include:

- A summary of the available evidence
- Identification of where there are gaps in the evidence (this may identify a need for more evidence in the action plan)
- What information is currently captured with respect to usage and take up of services.
- What the current situation is in relation to equality and diversity monitoring (where relevant)

The East Surrey Outreach Service (eSOS) works with a significant number of clients with complex needs. In the first 12 months 74% (103) of individuals supported by the service had been homeless individuals, experiencing mental health issues, alcohol and substance misuse issues and/or are ex-offenders. The majority of clients to date have been male (83.6%). These figures are reinforced by the recent Surrey Homelessness Health Needs Audit 2016, and a copy can be made available. The outcomes from the project are monitored monthly by the partnership board. Each of the key members analyses the statistics from eSOS against their own local area statistics in order to evidence the achievements of the project. Detailed outcome statistics can be provided.

The Family Support Programme (FSP) worked with over 600 of the most complex families across Surrey and 140 across the South East in 2015/16. This multi agency activity co-ordinated by the FSP has seen reductions in anti-social behaviour, improvements in school attendance and a host of other issues that could otherwise have escalated. The target for the South East programme for 2016/17 is to work with 147 families through the programme. This target will be equivalent for the next 3 years. This is a challenging target for the programme and requires multi-agency co-operation to achieve.

How have stakeholders been involved in this assessment? Who are they, and what is their view?

The budget proposals are being considered by the Standing Budget Panel, Scrutiny Committee and the Executive. Separate consultation discussions have taken place with Parish Councils, Chambers of Commerce and other representative organisations.

Recommendations

Please summarise the main recommendations arising from the assessment. NB If it is impossible to diminish negative impacts to an acceptable or even lawful level the recommendation should be that the proposal or the relevant part of it should not proceed.

N/A

Summary

Review date	December 2016
Person responsible for review	Phil Mitchell
Strategic Management Lead signed off	Nick Gray