

## FORM D: EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT PUBLISHING SUMMARY

<b>1. Policy details</b>		
<b>Policy Title</b>	Transformation Strategy 2012 – 2017 (General Revenue Budget 2013/14 and Draft Budget 2014/15 and 2015/16)	
<b>Policy Lead Officer</b>	Alex McPhee, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support	
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<b>Others involved:</b>	Alyia Zaheed Corporate Officer (Equality and Diversity) Susan Fulton (Disability Awareness Advisor)	Pauline Minnery Corporate Officer (Business Support) Katie Kelly Section Head, Neighbourhood Services
<b>Date Assessment completed:</b>	22 November 2012	
<b>2. Summary of policy aims</b>		
<p>The Transformation Strategy 2012 – 2017 was approved by Council on 28 June 2012. The Strategy sets out twenty-five workstreams designed to assist the Council to address an estimated budget gap of £34.1 million in the period 2013/14 to 2016/17. The Strategy includes a set of Strategic Imperatives designed to govern the actions necessary for achieving longer term financial sustainability whilst delivering priority outcomes. The budget proposals outline the proposed General Revenue Budget 2013/14 and draft budget 2014/15 and 2015/16, in line with the allocation of estimated funding from the Scottish Government and outcomes from work undertaken in respect of workstreams set out within the Council's Transformation Strategy.</p>		
<b>3. Key issues and judgments</b>		
<p>The overall aim of the budget proposals is to agree the General Services Revenue Budget for 2013/14 and draft budgets for 2014/15 and 2015/16 together with the increase in Council House Rents for 2013/14. The Council is committed to tackling inequality and has ensured that the decision making throughout this year's budget setting process has involved as many members of our community as possible by undertaking an extensive online and face to face consultation process known as 'Future East Ayrshire...it's time to talk about budget matters'. Officers will continue to work to mitigate against any potential negative impact, wherever possible.</p>		
<b>4. Summary of involvement with groups</b>		
<p>The 'Future East Ayrshire' consultation process included a week long programme of events and consultation survey, which provided opportunities to inform local people, employees and a range of key stakeholders about budget proposals and for them to engage in the process, express their views and share ideas about the future of East Ayrshire Council. The consultation process was initially implemented from 5 -11 November 2012 and subsequently extended until 16 November 2012. A series of events took place, including six special interest focus groups and five community road shows with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director, Executive Directors, Heads of Service and Senior Managers all in attendance. A questionnaire was made available in hard copy through libraries and local offices and online via the Council's website. In addition, over 2000 questionnaires were sent out through direct mailing, including copies to all members of the Residents' Panel. Taken together we met with nearly 400 people and had over 6,000 hits on our 'Future East Ayrshire' web pages. Across our Departments and Services there were over 80 staff meetings, providing the opportunity for employees to hear more about the proposals directly from their managers. Over 1500 questionnaires were completed and all comments are being analysed to inform the report which will be published on the newly created website and will go before Cabinet in December 2012.</p>		
<b>5. Key Recommendations</b>		
<p>To endorse the budget proposals for 2013/14 - 2015/16. Further consultation/involvement will be carried out as and when required in the context of the Transformation Strategy and further EQIAs will be part of this process.</p>		
<p><b>For further information or a copy of the full assessment, please contact the above mentioned Lead Officer</b>  <b>Assessments are available in alternative formats or languages on request</b></p>		