

Reference number	EIA000351
Date Submitted	05/02/2024
Subject of the EIA	Budget Reduction Proposal - Reduction of Ward Forum Meetings across the 69 wards in the City



Brief description of the policy, service or function covered by the EIA

The co-ordination of ward forum meetings is carried out by the Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit (NDSU) through its community governance function. Currently the NDSU offer is to support 4 general ward forum meetings per ward per municipal year plus 2 meetings linked to ward action planning. The proposed reduction is to 3 meetings per ward per municipal year and integrating the ward action planning process. Ward Forum Meetings and Ward Action Planning function is a requirement as outlined in the Council's Constitution as follows:-

10.1 Role

- i. Ward Forums will be constituted to encourage and facilitate dialogue between the Council and local people within their area.
- ii. The Council will establish (or dissolve) Ward Forums on the recommendation of the Council Business Management Committee.
- iii. Members will provide community leadership at the ward level, in particular through engaging the local community and identifying very local issues and priorities (for example through Neighbourhood Tasking meetings).

10.2 Functions

- i. In conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Members, the role of Ward Forums is to:
 - a) Develop through local engagement and discussion and then adopt and approve a "Ward Plan and Priorities" setting out locally determined priorities and issues.
 - b) Provide a forum for community engagement in decisions affecting the local area (through regular meetings including neighbourhood forums, residents' associations, parish, community or neighbourhood councils and other local organisations).
 - c) To advise or make representations to the Council, the Executive or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee on all matters affecting community interests, working in conjunction with Cabinet Members to provide improved accountability in council and other public services within the area and to support the work of Overview and Scrutiny



	<p>local dialogue, partnership, commissioning and accountability. h) Work with appropriate ward contact officers to ensure that council services are responsive to local needs and priorities. i) Promote and influence service improvement, service integration and a focus on prevention across the whole of the local public sector and to consider the performance, integration and co-ordination of public services in the area and make recommendations to the Executive and to the council's partners as appropriate. j) Work in partnership with all local stakeholders to further the needs and priorities of local residents. k) Ensure that city wide and city regional levels of decision making have a good understanding of local needs and priorities in different parts of the city. l) Promote community empowerment and active citizenship and a diversity of local service provision, including community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises and to develop positive working relationships with parish, neighbourhood or community councils. m) To promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. n) Working to advance the council's policies on local leadership and with other Ward Forums to progress issues across a larger geographical area . The reduction does not impact disproportionately to any one protected characteristic .</p>
<p>Equality Assessment is in support of...</p>	<p>["Amended function", "Amended service"]</p>
<p>How frequently will you review impact and mitigation measures identified in this EIA?</p>	<p>No preference</p>



Data sources

["Birmingham City



How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sex characteristic? N/A



How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sexual orientation characteristic?	N/A
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How will you ensure any adverse impact and mitigation measures are monitored?	As previously mentioned although there is a general impact across the City with a reduced number of ward forum meetings it does not impact disproportionately to any one protected characteristic. Given that there will still be 3 meetings per year the potential impact will be mitigated. Continued engagement at the remaining ward forum meetings involving local councillor(s), residents and key
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