How were equalities issues taken into consideration in allocating budgets in 2012-13? (Please describe the process undertaken)

The Council have been reviewing all services over a three year period and a robust/structured service review process was in place for all services, which included carrying out equality impact assessments. Equality Impact Assessments were carried out on each saving option identified and these were quality checked by the central Equalities Team. Savings options were also combined together and impact assessed.

Was the approach taken for the 2012-13 budget any different from that taken in 2011-12? (If YES, please describe what changed in your approach)

The approach taken in the 2012-13 was no different to that taken in 2011-12.

Can you provide any example of how equalities considerations influenced agreed budgets? (Please provide up to THREE examples)

As equality impact assessments were carried out on savings options as part of the service review process, consideration was taken early in the budget process to mitigate any adverse impact. As a result the equalities aspect of the budget savings put forward for Members approval would not have been an influencing factor in the agreed budgets.

Equalities in mainstream services

For your three most significant mainstream services (in terms of cost), please provide details of:

a) The total budget for this service in 2011-12 and 2012-13
   Education – 2011/12 £66.120m, 2012/13 £64.211m
   Adult Care – 2011/12 £42.942m, 2012/13 £43.415m
   Roads and Amenity – 2011/12 £24.179m, 2012/13 £23.050m

b) The impact (positive or negative) that this service has on equality groups
   There are no specific measures for this; however, part of the equality impact assessment process ensures that there were plans in place to mitigate any negative/adverse impact.

c) The impact (if any) that any budget changes have had on equality groups
   There are no specific measures for this.
Mainstreaming equalities

What specialist services or programmes have been, or are being altered, in the interests of mainstreaming?

We are currently working with the Scottish Councils Equality Network to develop equality outcomes and this may include mainstreaming but still in early stages.

What monitoring is in place to ensure that the relevant equality groups continue to access an appropriate service?

Monitoring arrangements will be developed as part of the work with the Scottish Councils Equality Network.

Bruce West
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Argyll & Bute Council
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