SUBMISSION FROM CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

1. **Equalities in the budgeting process**
   
   (i) All relevant information and related equality impact assessments regarding the budget process for 2012/13 (and for previous years) can be found on the Council’s website at: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/813/council_budget_equalitry_impact_assessments](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/813/council_budget_equalitry_impact_assessments).
   
   (ii) Summary reports for the revenue budget setting process and grants to third parties proposals covering 2011/12 and 2012/13 are also attached.
   
   (iii) The approach for 2012/13 was no different to the approach taken in 2011/12.
   
   (iv) I would suggest that the most prominent examples of how equalities considerations influenced agreed budgets over the period 2011/13 would be (a) enhanced advice and support packages put in place to support ex employees of Blindcraft (supported employment project for people with visual impairments and blind people), (b) enhanced equality monitoring of employees referred to redeployment pools and enhanced advice and support programmes put in place to support employees referred to redeployment pools, (c) contingency funding and specialist officer support put in place for equality specific third sector groups who were subject to grant reductions and (d) support activities and community engagement put in place to mitigate the impacts of Edinburgh Leisure and Council reductions in funding and support for Leith Waterworld.

2. **Equalities in mainstream services**
   
   (i) I would consider the three most prominent mainstream services to be (a) schools and community learning (b) housing and homelessness and (c) health and social care services for older people and people with disabilities.
   
   (ii) Information regarding spending on these three services is contained in the collection of budget reports for 2010/13 which can be found at: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1821/city_of_e](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1821/city_of_edinburgh_council).
   
   (iii) The question you pose with regard to equality impacts (positive or negative) in respect of these three services is, frankly, extremely complicated and detailed. In summary however, I would suggest that with regard to (a) schools and community learning services - the primary positive equality impacts are improved BME attainment, tackling bullying and prejudice, beginning to address occupational segregation in teaching staff and disabled pupils access, support and inclusion in mainstream schooling, non curriculum activities and transition to adult services / training / employment, (b) housing and homelessness services - the primary positive equality impacts are improved support for more older people and disabled people to live in community settings, addressing city centre homelessness, improving
homeless person’s case management approaches and the building of more affordable homes in the city and (b) health and social care services - the primary positive equality impacts are increases in direct payments to service users, tackling delayed discharge, increases in respite care and improvements in care at home services for adults. More detailed information on impacts relating to many aspects of these services can be found in completed equality impact assessments published on the Council’s website at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/813/council_budget_equality_impact_assessments or within the Equality Annual Progress reports which can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/equality.

(iv) With regard to the impact of any budget changes within these services on equality groups, again I would refer you to the completed equality impact assessments on all budget proposals which can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/813/council_budget_equality_impact_assessments.

(v) Given the complexity and detail of these matters I have instructed Nick Croft (the Council’s Equality Manager) to be available to offer any further information you require, or to appear at any relevant committee meetings.

3. Service provision for equality

(i) I would indicate that the Council’s aspiration is for all mainstream services to meet the needs of all equality groups. However, in response to your specific question, I would suggest that the three main areas of Council service provision specifically tailored for equality groups are (a) health and social care services for older people and disabled people, (b) interpretation and translation services for BME people and disabled people and (c) grants to third party equality groups.

(ii) Information regarding relevant budgets for these services for 2010/13 can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1821/city_of_edinburgh_council. The equivalent information regarding these services for 2011/14 can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/695/council_information_performance_and_statistics/1022/budgets/2

(iii) Again, the impacts of these specific services on equality groups are both complex and detailed. In summary, I would suggest that for (a) health and social care services, please see above at 2 (iii), (b) interpretation and translation services - thousands of citizens and service users a year receive interpretation and translation facilities in approximately 40 community languages, Braille, tape, large print and British Sign Language. This service enables equity of access to mainstream services, complaints processes and council information and (c) grants to third parties funding - support from the Council constitutes around £138M across 1400 bodies, many of which deliver services specifically to equality groups. Further detailed information can be found at the Edinburgh COMPACT website at:
I have also attached the relevant Grant to Third Party Funding Reports for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

(iv) As above, detailed information regarding the impacts of any reductions in funding support to third parties can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/813/council_budget_equality_impact_assessments.

4. **Mainstreaming equalities**

   (i) On the 12 June 2012 the Council approved a new ‘Framework to Advance Equality and Rights 2012/17’. A copy of this can be found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_human_rights/707/equal_opportunities/1. This framework indicates the Council's commitment to mainstream equality and rights into all areas of relevant council business. In this regard, the Council will publish (by April 2013) a progress report on mainstreaming activity.

   (ii) The framework also indicates how the Council will meet equality and human rights legal duties with regard to improving evidence, publishing outcomes, undertaking impact assessment, delivering equality within employment and procurement and reporting progress every two years.

   (iii) As above, the question you pose requires a detailed answer and again, I would encourage you to contact the Council’s Equality Manager, Nick Croft, for any further information.

   (iv) In summary however, I would offer the following as key areas of progress with regard to mainstreaming equality activity in recent years: (a) equality impact analysis inclusion within council committee reports, (b) equality impact assessment of all budget proposals, (c) equality and diversity issues included in training, management and leadership development courses, (d) monitoring equality categories within staff surveys, neighbourhood surveys and customer access databases, (e) improving the service response to victims of domestic violence and hate crime, (f) improving analysis and action to address pupil attainment differentials amongst equality groups and (g) improving approaches to the personalisation of care and support services for older people and disabled people.

Sue Bruce  
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City of Edinburgh Council  
28 June 2012