Equalities in the budgeting process

1. All budget proposals underwent an equalities screening exercise to identify proposals that required an equality impact assessment. Many of these proposals are currently the subject of reviews, with impact assessments ongoing.

2. Yes, the screening exercise was not carried out for 2011-12.

3. Councillors requested reviews to be carried out for several proposals, including a redesign of additional support needs service in schools and bus services.

Equalities in mainstream services

Schools –

- Budget 2011-12 £35.5m, 2012-13 £35.7m
- The Schools service has a positive impact on the education of children and young people with additional special needs.
- The budget changes have not had an impact on this equality group.

Community Care –

- Budget 2011-12 £26.4m, 2012-13 £23m
- The Community Care service provides care services for elderly people both within their homes and in care settings.
- The budget changes have not impacted this equality group so far. A number of reviews are currently underway in this service and are being equality impact assessed for impacts.

Transport –

- Budget 2011-12 £16.8m, 2012-13 £17.4m
- The Transport service provides public bus and ferry services. People from some equality target groups such as migrant workers and young people are less likely to own cars and so rely on public transport services.
- The budget changes have not impacted these equality groups so far. A review of public transport services is currently underway and is being equality impact assessed for impacts.
Service provision for equalities groups

Bridges Project –

- Budget 2011-12 £0.2m, 2012-13 £0.2m
- This service works with vulnerable young people, including NEETS to increase their life skills, employability etc.
- The service delivered was not directly affected by the budget changes for the year 2012-13.

Community ESOL provision –

- Budget 2011-12 £0.3m, 2012-13 £0.3m
- This service provides English as a Second Language tuition.
- The service delivered was not directly affected by the budget changes for the year 2012-13.

Mainstreaming equalities

1. The following changes are in the process of being altered:

   Change the way in which day care services are provided in the community, by closing the dedicated provision in the care settings; and

   Relocate and redesign the dementia care services currently provided at Viewforth care centre.

   These changes are currently being reviewed and setting up a monitoring system will form part of the review.

Alistair Buchan  
Chief Executive  
Shetland Islands Council  
17 September 2012