

APPENDIX 4

Overall Budget Impact Assessment 2026/27

Subject of assessment:	Middlesbrough Council Budget 2025/6			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	☐ Strategy	☐ Policy	☒ Service	☐ Function
	☐ Process/procedure	☐ Programme	☐ Project	☒ Review
	☒ Organisational change	☒ Other (please state) Budget		
It is a:	New approach:	☐	Revision of an existing approach:	☒
It is driven by:	Legislation:	☒	Local or corporate requirements:	☒

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Description:	Key aims, objectives and activities By law the Council has to agree a balanced budget annually. The purpose of this Impact Assessment is to assess the cumulative impact of the 2026/27 budget proposals. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) places a statutory duty on the Council to ensure that it identifies where decisions would impact disproportionately adversely on groups that share a protected characteristic under UK law and then consider those proposals in line with the PSED. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The 2026/27 proposed budget did not include any budget savings that required consultation with the public. It proposed six areas of growth, of which some were relevant to one or more protected characteristics. They were: <table border="1" data-bbox="512 632 1341 979"> <thead> <tr> <th>Growth Area</th><th>£m</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Continuing to improve the look and feel of our Town</td><td>1.700</td></tr> <tr> <td>Making our town safer</td><td>0.650</td></tr> <tr> <td>Improving housing standards</td><td>0.300</td></tr> <tr> <td>Improving Play Parks</td><td>0.200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Supporting our communities</td><td>0.600</td></tr> <tr> <td>Supporting and protecting vulnerable residents</td><td>0.870</td></tr> <tr> <td>Childhood Enrichment</td><td>0.900</td></tr> <tr> <td>Supporting our carers and foster families</td><td>0.110</td></tr> <tr> <td>Supporting Growth and Jobs</td><td>0.630</td></tr> <tr> <td>Spending more on culture and events</td><td>0.500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Proposed Service Budget Growth</td><td>6.460</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Growth Area	£m	Continuing to improve the look and feel of our Town	1.700	Making our town safer	0.650	Improving housing standards	0.300	Improving Play Parks	0.200	Supporting our communities	0.600	Supporting and protecting vulnerable residents	0.870	Childhood Enrichment	0.900	Supporting our carers and foster families	0.110	Supporting Growth and Jobs	0.630	Spending more on culture and events	0.500	Total Proposed Service Budget Growth	6.460
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	A general consultation email address was launched along with a consultation section on the Council's website, social media promotion and in-person events led by the Mayor. This resulted in 302 responses to the survey, 5 emails to the email address, 2 people attended the in person consultation event with the public and it was directly promoted to over 45,000 through email newsletters, promotion on the Council's website and its social media presence. Statutory drivers (set out exact reference) A number of statutory duties, guidance, legislation and regulations are relevant to this proposal which will be considered, these include but are not limited to: • Budget setting - Local Government Act 1972 • Impact Assessment process – Equality Act 2010.																								

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	Differences from any previous approach The budget sets out a range of changes to services and functions. These are outlined in the main body of the report. Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external) All residents of Middlesbrough and customers of MBC. Some proposals for growth areas are more relevant to certain groups than others and this is set out within this assessment. Intended outcomes To present a budget to Council that has given full consideration to the impact of proposals and gives proper consideration to the Council's equality duties.
Live date:	April 2026 onwards
Lifespan:	April 2026 – March 2027
Date of next review:	March 2027

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Assessment issue	Impacts identified		Rationale and supporting evidence			
	None	Positive	Negative		Uncertain	
			Justified	Mitigated		
Human Rights						
Engagement with Convention Rights (as set out in section 1, appendix 2 of the Impact Assessment Policy).	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals impact on human rights. None of the assessments have identified that there could be an adverse impact on human rights as a result of a proposal.
Equality						
Age	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	A number of the growth areas proposed aim to improve the capacity and / scale of service functions that are related to children and young people. The proposals will impact positively on these areas. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of the budget and its proposals for growth and the consultation responses received.

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Assessment issue	Impacts identified		Rationale and supporting evidence			
	None	Positive	Negative		Uncertain	
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Disability	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	A number of the growth areas proposed aim to improve the capacity and / scale of service functions that could positively impact on this protected characteristic, either directly or indirectly. Additional funding is planned to make the town safer, support carers, improve the town and improve housing standards. There are no concerns that the budget and the areas of investment could result in disproportionate adverse impact on this protected characteristic. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of the budget and its proposals for growth and the consultation responses received.
Race	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals for growth were identified as being particularly relevant to these protected characteristics. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of the budget and its proposals for growth and the consultation responses received.
Gender reassignment	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Pregnancy / maternity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Race	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Religion or belief	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	

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Assessment issue	Impacts identified		Rationale and supporting evidence			
	None	Positive	Negative		Uncertain	
			Justified	Mitigated		
Sex	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Sexual Orientation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Dependants / caring responsibilities**	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Criminal record / offending past**	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Marriage / civil partnership**	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Community cohesion						
Individual communities / neighbourhoods	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals are identified as having an adverse impact on community cohesion. A number of the growth proposals will indirectly, positively impact on community cohesion including: - Making the town safer

** Indicates this is not included within the single equality duty placed upon public authorities by the Equality Act. See guidance for further details.

Assessment issue	Impacts identified		Rationale and supporting evidence			
	None	Positive	Negative		Uncertain	
			Justified	Mitigated		
Relations between communities / neighbourhoods	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Armed Forces Covenant						
Council delivered healthcare services	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals are identified as having an impact on this area of the Armed Forces Covenant.
Compulsory Education - admissions; educational attainment and curriculum; child wellbeing; transport; attendance; additional needs support; and Service Pupil Premium funding	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals are identified as having an impact on this area of the Armed Forces Covenant.
Housing, homelessness and disabled facilities grants	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Care leavers						

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Assessment issue	Impacts identified		Rationale and supporting evidence			
	None	Positive	Negative		Uncertain	
			Justified	Mitigated		
Care experienced people	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	None of the proposals re identified as having a negative impact on care experienced people. Implementation of childhood enrichment will support the Council to have increased capacity to support young people, including those who are care experienced. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of current service provision and feedback from the consultation process.
Reducing Poverty						
Reducing poverty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Further actions		Lead	Deadline
Mitigating actions	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Promotion	Promotion of changes where growth has been agreed	Directors responsible	Various
Monitoring and evaluation	Overall monitoring of the impact will be embedded within performance management arrangements for 2026/27	Chief Executive	May 2026 onwards

Assessment completed by:	Ann-Marie Johnstone	Head of Service:	n/a
Date:	19 January 2026	Date:	n/a