

Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership – comments on Budget EIAs

NB: approx 25 BMECP members attended a session to discuss the Budget EIAs.

Overall Comments:

- Concern for the impact on the next generation. Once the damage is done it is hard to undo.
- It's hard from the papers to identify actually what impact there is likely to be on BME people.
- There is real concern about lack of knowledge of need in the communities – population statistics are not up-to-date.
- Though the overall budget for grants has not been reduced, the award size has been. Specific question about future funding for celebrations and events (eg: Black History Month).
- Crime is likely to increase with less street lighting.
- Impact on refuse collection?
- What is the impact on big businesses?
- Numbers of refugees are increasing, so there is concern about the impact on classrooms.
- How were these proposals arrived at? What were the criteria used? Has there been consultation with people using the service?
- Roads: planning not thinking it through.
- What is the actual saving from the changes to toilet provision?
- Could there be a change to the bus pass for older people so that it has a dual use and carers can also use it?
- If people are made redundant then there is more of a cost in terms of benefits.
- Voluntary training for BME people living here.
- Reductions in housing budget mean that the mediation service is now asking for donations: this may have a bigger impact on BME communities, if they are over-represented among users of the mediation service, due to issues around racial harassment.

