

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

EIA Version	Date	Author	Changes
1	26/1/2021	Belinda Miller	

Stage 1: Title and aims of the activity (“activity” is an umbrella term covering policies, procedures, guidance and decisions including those that affect services the council delivers).	
Service	Economic Development & Protective Services
Section	Economic Development
Title of the activity etc.	Vacancy management and increased focus on assisting businesses to secure alternative funding and reductions to funded organisations.
Aims and desired outcomes of the activity	Reduce funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Partnerships, • Visit Aberdeenshire, • Food and Drink Industry, • Business Support Grants. Vacant management in Regeneration team.
Author(s) & Title(s)	Belinda Miller, Head of Service

Stage 2: List the evidence that has been used in this assessment and explain what it means in relation to the activity you are assessing.		
Evidence	What does it say?	What does it mean?
Internal data (customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).	None	
Internal consultation with staff and other services affected.	Policy Budget Steering Group ISDMT ED&PS Management Team Infrastructure Services Committee	Budget saving for Aberdeenshire Council, if accepted.

<p>External consultation (partner organisations, community groups, and councils).</p>	<p>Visit Aberdeenshire Rural Partnerships Opportunity North East</p>	<p>These organisations will reduce their activities for which the Council funding is provided – tourism, community economic development and industry support</p>
<p>External data (census, available statistics).</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Other (general information as appropriate).</p>		

Stage 3: Evidence Gaps.	
Are there any gaps in the information you currently hold?	No

Stage 4: Measures to fill the evidence gaps.		
What measures will be taken to fill the information gaps before the activity is implemented? These should be included in the action plan at the back of this form.	Measures:	Timescale:
	N/A	

Stage 5: What steps can be taken to promote good relations between various groups/areas?	
These should be included in the action plan.	Ongoing discussion/meetings with relevant organisations.

Stage 6: How does the policy/activity create opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity?
None identified

Stage 7a:				
Are there potential impacts on protected groups?				
The protected groups covered by the equality duty are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.				
Who is affected by the activity or who is intended to benefit from the proposed activity and how? Complete the table below for each protected group by inserting "yes" in the applicable box/boxes below.				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Age – Younger			x	

Age - Older			x	
Disability			x	
Race – (includes Gypsy Travellers)			x	
Religion or Belief			x	
Sex			x	
Pregnancy and maternity			x	
Sexual orientation – (includes Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual)			x	
Gender reassignment – (includes Transgender)			x	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			x	

Stage 7b: Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy, activity etc. will or may impact on socio-economic inequalities?

This is about trying to be fair to everyone. Part of that is realising that not everyone may be starting at the same place. Some individuals and families may have low income, may have very little or no savings which means they are living from month to month therefore changes to council policies/services may have a greater adverse impact on them.

On this basis you should consider potential impacts on individuals/families by:

- Place: on specific vulnerable areas or communities (SIMD, regeneration, rural) e.g. housing, transport.
- Pockets: household resources, (Income, benefits, outgoings) ability to access a service
- Prospects: peoples life chances e.g., Access to, or ability to access employment, training, services (such as council or health) or support.

Groups of people who may be impacted include, but not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • Single parents and vulnerable families • People on benefits • Those involved in the criminal justice system • People in the most deprived communities • People who live in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioners • Looked after children • Carers including young carers • Veterans • Students • Single adult households • People who have experienced the asylum system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those leaving the care setting including children and young people and those with illness • Homeless people • People with low literacy/numeracy • People with lower educational qualifications • People in low paid work • People with one or more protected characteristic
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Please complete by inserting “yes” in the applicable box/boxes below.

Socio-economic disadvantage	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown
Pockets: Low income/income poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing			x	

Pockets: Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future			x	
Pockets: Material deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e., financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies			x	
Place: Area deprivation – where you live, where you work		x		
Prospects: Socioeconomic background – social class i.e., parents' education, employment and income, educational achievement.		x		

Stage 8: What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impacts.	Positive	Negative
Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts you have highlighted above. Detail the impacts and describe those affected.		Reduced activities by the 6 rural partnerships for community economic development will reduce support to community groups activities to help their own communities
		Reduced officer in Regeneration will reduce effectiveness of support in area work on regeneration activities/to deliver regeneration strategy and action plans

Stage 9: Have any of the affected groups/areas been involved, engaged with or consulted?

If yes, please give details of how this was done and what the results were. If no, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating steps?

The Rural Partnership Federation – meeting in December and matter considered at Infrastructure Services Committee in Dec 2020.

The Regeneration Partnerships are aware of the proposal to reduce funding for a post.

Stage 10: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce negative impacts?

	Mitigating Steps	Timescale
These should be included in any action plan at the back of this form.	Offer of officer support to id alternative funding options to supplement lost funding	Ongoing
	Review of posts and funding to support regeneration activities	Jan – Mar 2021

Stage 11: What monitoring arrangements will be put in place? How the EIA will be used to monitor the proposal

These should be included in any action plan (for example customer satisfaction questionnaires).

Direct liaison over next 2 years by ED staff with each of the 6 Rural Partnerships
Reports to B&B and Buchan Area Committees on performance of regeneration work and outcomes- every 6 months

Stage 12: What is the outcome of the Assessment?

Please complete the appropriate box/boxes	1	No negative impacts have been identified –please explain.

	2	Negative Impacts have been identified; these can be mitigated - please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen.
	3	The activity will have negative impacts which cannot be mitigated fully – please explain. * Please fill in Stage 13 if this option is chosen
	x	

* Stage 13: Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.

Council budget pressures and acceptance by the Council that ongoing funding for Rural Partnerships in particular, and level of activity on regeneration, food and drink and tourism industry cannot be sustained, at current levels.

Stage 14: Sign off and authorisation.

Sign off and authorisation.	1) Service and Team	Economic Development & Protective Service	
	2) Title of Policy/Activity	Vacancy management and increased focus on assisting businesses to secure alternative funding.	
	3) Authors: I/We have completed the equality impact assessment for this policy/activity.	Name: Belinda Miller Position: Head of Service Date: 26.1.21 Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
		Name: Position: Date: Signature:	Name: Position: Date: Signature:
4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: Matt Lockley Date: 26/01/2021		

5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Belinda Miller Position: Head of Service Date: 26.1.21	Name: Position: Date:
6) If the EIA relates to a matter that has to go before a Committee, Committee report author sends the Committee Report and this form, and any supporting assessment documents, to the Officers responsible for monitoring and the Committee Officer of the relevant Committee.	Date:	
7) EIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: equalities@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date: 24.02.2021	

