

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Proposed Reduction in Economic Development Discretionary Grants

Assessment ID	IIA-000436
Lead Author	Alistair Reid
Additional Authors	Gary Hughes
Service Reviewers	Paul Macari
Subject Matter Experts	Lynne Gravener
Approved By	Paul Macari
Approved On	Friday January 28, 2022
Publication Date	Wednesday February 02, 2022

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

The assessment will consider the implications of the proposed £20K reduction in the discretionary grant scheme (previously known as Business Resilience and Sustainability Scheme (BRASS)) operated by Economic Development.

During screening 2 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Sustainability and Climate Change

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by paul.macari2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	NotSure
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	national funding schemes	A plethora of grant funding has been available from central government during the the covid-19 pandemic. The main aim is to retain the support business survival and retain the business base in Aberdeenshire.	Businesses have received financial support

4.4. Engagement with affected groups

As the grant scheme is discretionary, it is not possible at this stage to identify groups which may be affected by decision

4.5. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

As the grant scheme is discretionary, it is not possible at this stage to identify groups which may

be affected by decision

4.6. Evidence of engagement

As the grant scheme is discretionary, it is not possible at this stage to identify groups which may be affected by decision

4.7. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

As the grant scheme is discretionary, it is not possible at this stage to identify groups which may be affected by decision

4.8. Improving Relations

Promotion of replacement grant scheme will take place at launch date

4.9. Opportunities of Equality

The replacement grant scheme will encourage business expansion and development, protecting and creating employment in Aberdeenshire.

5. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

5.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

5.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment		Yes		
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience		Yes		
Adaptation		Yes		

5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Officer knowledge	As this scheme is discretionary and it is yet to be launched, it is not possible to identify impacts of grant awards at this stage	As this scheme is discretionary and it is yet to be launched, it is not possible to identify impacts of grant awards at this stage

5.4. Information Gaps

We have still to design the replacement for BRASS

5.5. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Work will be concluded on the design of the replacement for BRASS, in time for launch in financial year 2022-23	Design complete in time for launch in financial year 2023-23

5.6. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

As the grant scheme is discretionary, it is not possible at this stage to identify groups which may be affected by decision

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Design and relaunch successor to BRASS	<p>Lead Officer Alistair Reid</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday February 14, 2022</p> <p>Planned Finish Friday March 31, 2023</p> <p>Expected Outcome Launch of replacement discretionary grant scheme</p> <p>Resource Implications Officer time Budget for grants £100K (proposed)</p>