

Integrated Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legislative duties by assessing the potential impacts of its policies and decisions on different groups of people and the environment. The legislation considered within this assessment is:

- Section 2 Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics
- Section 3 Socio-Economic
- Section 4 Consumer Duty
- Section 5 <u>Human Rights</u>
- Section 6 Children and Young People's Rights
- Section 7 Environmental impacts

The term 'policy' is used throughout this document and applies to policies, proposals, strategies, provision, criteria, functions, practice, budget savings and activities that includes delivery of our services.

1. About the Policy

1.1 Title

Reduce energy costs by switching off every 2nd streetlight or dimming all streetlights by 50%

1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

The proposal is to switch off every second streetlight or dim every streetlight by 50%

1.3 Is this a strategic programme/proposal/decision?

This is a strategic proposal.

1.4 Is this a new or existing policy?

This proposal has been considered previously with reduced hours; however, this is to switch off every second light or dim all lights by 50%

1.5 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

1.6 Committee name and date:

Full Council (Budget) 5th March 2025

1.7 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:

Budget proposal OSR - 06

1.8 Function and Cluster:

Operations and Protective Services Cluster

Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a legal requirement as a public sector organisation to assess the impact of its work on equality groups and assess against human rights, children's rights and our socio-economic duty. This is our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The PSED has three key parts:

• Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other prohibited conduct.

- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations by tackling prejudice, promoting understanding.

This following five sections in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrate that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies what impact the policy may have on people with <u>protected characteristics</u>.

2.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Protected Characteristic		Negative		Negative		Docitivo
	High	Medium	Low	Neutral	Positive	
Age	x					
Disability	х					
Gender Reassignment				х		
Marriage and Civil Partnership				х		
Pregnancy and Maternity	х					
Race				х		
Religion or Belief				х		
Sex	Х					
Sexual Orientation						

2.2 In what way will the policy impact people with these protected characteristics?

- 1. Reduced lighting can increase the risk of accidents and crime and perception of risk, especially amongst the elderly, vulnerable groups and people with disabilities
- 2. Fear and Anxiety: People with mental health conditions may experience heightened anxiety or fear when walking in poorly lit areas. This can limit their mobility and willingness to go out after dark
- 3. Accessibility Issues: Individuals with visual impairments rely heavily on adequate lighting to navigate public spaces. Reduced lighting can make it more challenging for them to move around safely

2.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

Using Insurance Claims Data

- Data Analysis: By analysing insurance claims related to accidents, injuries, and property
 damage, we have identified patterns and hotspots where street-lighting defects or poor lighting
 level conditions are contributing factors.
- **Risk Identification**: This data helps pinpoint specific locations and times where incidents have been more likely to occur, allowing a reasonable conclusion to be drawn that the reduction in lighting relates directly to the number of claims received by the Council.
- Prioritization: Areas with higher frequencies of claims can be prioritized for repairs and maintenance, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently to reduce risks.
- Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain Office for National Statistics.

What did the data tell you? This data enables the identification of specific locations and times where incidents are more likely to occur. Consequently, it is reasonable to conclude that the reduction in lighting directly correlates with the increase in claims received by the Council.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

Chief Officers from all other services have had sight of all budget options being put forward.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy?

Aberdeen City Council undertook a two-part public consultation around the 2025/26 Budget and future spending plans from August 2024 to November 2024.

In Part 1, conducted throughout August 2024, participants were asked to provide feedback on four key areas: Budget Options, Council Tax, Service Area Prioritisation, and Capital Programme Expenditure. Under Budget Options, respondents were queried about the potential impacts of proposed options, including both reduction strategies and income-boosting charges. Regarding Council Tax, input was sought on acceptable levels of increase and their potential impacts. Citizens were also invited to express their views on which service areas should be prioritised for spending and to offer their opinions on capital programme expenditure.

In part 2, which took place throughout November 2024, the Council consulted on additional budget options, again focusing on the impact if implemented. The phase 2 consultation included budget options relating to the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership.

There were 4278 responses across the four areas consulted on during part 1 of the online consultation and 1535 responses to part 2. Respondents had the option to indicate which protected characteristics would be affected.

29% of respondents said reduce street light would have no impact, while 71% indicted negative impact with, 26% reported a low negative impact, 20% noted a medium impact, and 25% indicated a high negative impact.

Summary of comments:

- Mixed Opinions on Lighting: While many oppose the reduction in street lighting, some residents believe that dimming lights in less critical areas could save money and benefit the environment.
- Health and Safety: Concerns are raised about how reduced lighting could lead to more accidents and injuries.
- Suggestions included using LED lights instead of reducing.

Various approaches were offered to support participation. Throughout both phases, opportunities were offered for the public to attend face to face and digital sessions to discuss the proposals in more detail.

There were 2 face to face sessions, including British Sign Language options and 4 digital sessions, with a total of 24 attendees.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

- **Maintain Adequate Lighting**: Ensure that critical areas remain well-lit, even if overall lighting levels are reduced.
- **Community Engagement**: Given this significant departure from the standard provision of lighting throughout the City, it is crucial to involve the Police and the local community at an early stage. Encouraging them to identify and report issues or areas of concern will facilitate timely interventions.

With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?

High	Χ
Medium	
Low	
Negative Impact Removed	

3: Socio-Economic Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to reduce the inequalities of outcome that can arise from socio-economic disadvantage. This section is used to consider what impact the policy may have on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage – and how any inequalities of outcome arising from the policy can be reduced.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: <u>The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies (www.gov.scot)</u>

3.1 What impact could this policy have on people who experience the following aspects of socio-economic disadvantage?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Low income— those who have insufficient earnings to meet basic		Х	
needs, such as food, clothing, housing, or utilities.			
Low/ no wealth – those who have no savings for unexpected spend		Х	
or provision for the future.			
Material deprivation – those who cannot afford or access goods or	x		
services that are considered essential or desirable for a decent			
quality of life, such as food, clothing, heating, transport, internet,			
cultural, recreational and social activities.			
Area deprivation – those who live in an area with poor living	х		
conditions, such as higher levels of crime, pollution, noise,			
congestion, or lack of infrastructure, amenities, or green spaces.			
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education,	х		
employment, income.			

3.2 In what way will the policy impact people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

- Increased Crime Risk: Reduced lighting can lead to higher crime rates, particularly in lowincome areas where residents may already feel vulnerable. Poor lighting can make it easier for criminal activities to go unnoticed
- Safety Concerns: People from disadvantaged backgrounds often rely on walking or public transport. Poorly lit streets can increase the risk of accidents and make it more dangerous to travel at night
- **Limited Mobility:** Fear of crime and accidents can restrict the movement of individuals, limiting their ability to access essential services, employment opportunities, and social activities
- Mental Health: The stress and anxiety associated with unsafe environments can negatively impact mental health, exacerbating existing socio-economic challenges

3.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

Personal injury claims have risen due to previous reductions of road maintenance budgets. A risk-based approach to rectify such defects has been adopted and as such, any reduction in lighting levels will increase the risk to members of the public, particularly the more vulnerable groups. Claims data doesn't identify specific factors relating to Socioeconomics.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations? Chief Officers from all other services have had sight of all budget options being put forward.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy?

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Various approaches were offered to support participation. Throughout both phases, opportunities were offered for the public to attend face to face and digital sessions to discuss the proposals in more detail. There were 2 face to face sessions, including British Sign Language options and 4 digital sessions, with a total of 24 attendees.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

Enhanced Security Measures

- Increased Police Patrols: Compensate for reduced lighting by increasing police presence in areas identified as high-risk. This can help deter criminal activities and provide a sense of security for residents
- **Surveillance Systems**: Install CCTV cameras with night vison capabilities in strategic locations to monitor and respond to incidents more effectively

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains x

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

4: Consumer Impacts

The Consumer Scotland Act 2020 places a Consumer Duty on the public sector to put consumer interests at the heart of strategic decision-making, emphasising the need for accessible and affordable public services, especially during times of financial pressure. This person-centred approach is intended to result in better quality services and outcomes for the public as consumers of public services across Scotland.

This section of the IIA is used to consider the impact of the policy on consumers of any services that the policy is intended to change.

Use this guide to understand more on the consumer duty: <u>How to meet the consumer duty</u>: <u>guidance for public</u> authorities

4.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below consumer groups?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Individuals	х		
Small businesses	х		

4.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these consumer groups?

- Reduced Foot Traffic: Poor lighting can deter customers from visiting businesses after dark, particularly in areas perceived as unsafe. This can lead to a decline in evening sales for restaurants, shops, and other establishments
- 2. **Increased Crime Risk**: Dimly lit areas can become hotspots for criminal activities, such as vandalism and theft, which can directly affect businesses. Increased crime can also deter customers and make employees feel unsafe
- 3. **Insurance Costs**: Higher crime rates and increased risk of accidents can lead to higher insurance premiums for businesses, adding to their operational costs.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

Enhanced Security Measures

- Increased Police Patrols: Compensate for reduced lighting by increasing police presence in areas identified as high-risk. This can help deter criminal activities and provide a sense of security for residents
- Surveillance Systems: Install CCTV cameras with night vison capabilities in strategic locations to monitor and respond to incidents more effectively

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or	No – negative impact remains	х
reduce the negative impact?	Yes – negative impact reduced	
	Yes - negative impact removed	

5: Human Rights Impacts

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporates the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000

The Act sets out our human rights in a series of 'Articles'. Each Article deals with a different right.

Use this guide to understand more about Human Rights.

5.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Article 2: Right to life		Х	

Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour		Х	
Article 5: Right to liberty and security	X		
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		Х	
Article 7: No punishment without law		Х	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and		Х	
correspondence			
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		Х	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		Х	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		Х	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		Х	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and		х	
<u>freedoms</u>			
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property	Х		
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		х	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		х	

5.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

Implementing a policy to reduce street lighting levels in Aberdeen can have several potential impacts on people's human rights. Here are some key considerations:

Right to Safety and Security

- 1. **Increased Crime Risk**: Reduced lighting can lead to higher crime rates, particularly in areas already prone to criminal activities. This can compromise the safety and security of residents, infringing on their right to live in a safe environment.
- 2. **Fear and Anxiety**: Poor lighting can increase fear and anxiety among residents, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This can limit their freedom of movement and ability to participate in community life.

Right to Health

- 1. **Physical Health**: Poorly lit streets can increase the risk of accidents and injuries, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. This can negatively impact physical health and well-being
- 2. **Mental Health**: The stress and anxiety associated with unsafe environments can have detrimental effects on mental health, exacerbating existing conditions and contributing to new ones

Right to Freedom of Movement

- Restricted Mobility: Fear of crime and accidents can restrict people's movement, limiting their ability to access essential services, employment opportunities, and social activities. This can disproportionately affect those who rely on walking or public transport
- 2. **Accessibility Issues**: Individuals with visual impairments or other disabilities may find it more challenging to navigate poorly lit areas, further restricting their freedom of movement.

Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination

1. **Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Groups**: The negative impacts of reduced lighting are likely to be felt more acutely by vulnerable groups, including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This can exacerbate existing inequalities and discrimination.

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

Mitigation Strategies

To mitigate these impacts, it is essential to:

- Maintain Adequate Lighting in Key Areas: Ensure that critical areas such as pedestrian crossings, bus stops, and high-crime zones remain well-lit.
- **Community Engagement**: Involve local communities in identifying and reporting areas of concern to ensure timely interventions.
- Enhanced Security Measures: Increase police patrols and install surveillance systems in strategic locations to compensate for reduced lighting

Implementing these strategies can help balance the need for energy savings with the protection of human rights, ensuring that all residents can live in a safe and secure environment

If without one one in where does this ways on	No possible impost vencins	
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or	No – negative impact remains	
reduce the negative impact?	Yes – negative impact reduced	Х
	Yes - negative impact removed	

6: Children and Young People's Rights Impacts

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children's rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a "children's service" e.g. care leavers aged 18-26 years old.

You can <u>read the full UN Convention (pdf)</u>, or <u>just a summary (pdf)</u>, to find out more about the rights that are included.

6.1 What impact could this policy have on the rights of Children and Young People?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
PROVISION			
Article 2: non-discrimination	х		
Article 3: best interests of the child provision and protection	х		
Article 5: parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities	х		
Article 16: right to privacy		Х	
Article 17: access to information from the media		Х	
Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance		Х	
Article 22: refugee children		Х	
Article 23: children with a disability		Х	
Article 24: health and health services		Х	
Article 26: social security		Х	
Article 27: adequate standard of living		Х	
Article 28: right to education		Х	
Article 29: goals of education		Х	
Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups		х	
Article 31: leisure, play and culture	х		
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		х	
Article 40: juvenile justice		х	
PROTECTION	'		•
Article 6: life, survival and development	х		
Article 7: birth registration, name, nationality, care		Х	
Article 8: protection and preservation of identity		Х	
Article 9: Separation from parents	х		
Article 10: family reunification protection		Х	
Article 11: abduction and non-return of children	х		
Article 15: freedom of association	х		
Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect	х		
Article 20: children unable to live with their family		Х	
Article 21: adoption		Х	
Article 25: review of treatment in care		Х	
Article 33: drug abuse	х		
Article 34: sexual exploitation	х		
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking	х		
Article 36: other forms of exploitation	х		
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention	х		
Article 38: war and armed conflicts		Х	
Article 32: child labour	X		

PARTICIPATION			
Article 12: respect for the views of the child		Х	
Article 13: freedom of expression		Х	
Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion		Х	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		Х	

6.2 In what way will the policy impact the rights of Children and Young People?

Right to Education and Leisure

- 1. **Restricted Mobility**: Fear of crime and accidents can restrict the movement of children and young people, limiting their ability to access educational and recreational facilities. This can negatively impact their educational outcomes and opportunities for social interaction.
- 2. **After-School Activities**: Reduced lighting can deter participation in after-school programs and extracurricular activities, which are essential for the holistic development of children and young people.

Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination

 Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Groups: The negative impacts of reduced lighting are likely to be felt more acutely by vulnerable groups, including children and young people from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This can exacerbate existing inequalities and discrimination.

Mitigation Strategies

To mitigate these impacts, it is essential to:

- Maintain Adequate Lighting in Key Areas: Ensure that critical areas such as school routes, playgrounds, and community centres remain well-lit.
- **Community Engagement**: Involve children, young people, and their families in identifying and reporting areas of concern to ensure timely interventions.
- **Enhanced Security Measures**: Increase police patrols and install surveillance systems in strategic locations to compensate for reduced lighting.

6.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

Mitigation Strategies

To mitigate these impacts, it is essential to:

- Maintain Adequate Lighting in Key Areas: Ensure that critical areas such as pedestrian crossings, bus stops, and high-crime zones remain well-lit.
- **Community Engagement**: Involve local communities in identifying and reporting areas of concern to ensure timely interventions.
- Enhanced Security Measures: Increase police patrols and install surveillance systems in strategic locations to compensate for reduced lighting

Implementing these strategies can help balance the need for energy savings with the protection of human rights, ensuring that all residents can live in a safe and secure environment

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

Yes – negative impact reduced X

Yes – negative impact removed

7: Environmental Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to meet its legal environmental responsibilities by working towards Net Zero emissions, adapting to climate change, and acting in a way it considers most sustainable. We must also fulfil the <u>biodiversity duty</u> and <u>sustainable procurement duty</u>.

This section in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrates that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

Use this guide to understand more on the legal climate change duty: <u>Climate change - gov.scot</u> (<u>www.gov.scot</u>) and find out more about how Aberdeen is adapting to Climate Change: <u>Aberdeen Adapts |</u> <u>Aberdeen City Council</u>

7.1 What is the impact of this policy on any of the below climate, environmental and waste considerations?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Council or City-wide carbon emissions			Х
Active and sustainable travel		Х	
Facilities for local living	х		
Resilience and adaptability to flooding and weather events	х		
Biodiversity improvement and wildlife/habitat connectivity		Х	
Water consumption and drainage		Х	
Pollution (air, water, noise, light and land contamination)			Х
Impact on resource use and waste		Х	
<u>Sustainable procurement</u> of goods and services		Х	

7.2 In what way will the policy impact the environment?

Positive Impacts

- 1. **Energy Conservation**: Lowering street lighting levels reduces energy consumption, which can decrease the city's carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuels. This contributes to overall environmental sustainability.
- 2. **Reduced Light Pollution**: Dimming or turning off some streetlights can reduce light pollution, which benefits nocturnal wildlife and improves the visibility of the night sky. This can help maintain natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

Negative Impacts

- 1. **Disruption to Wildlife**: While reduced lighting can benefit some species, it can also disrupt others that have adapted to the current lighting levels. Sudden changes in lighting can affect the behaviour and habitats of nocturnal animals.
- 2. **Safety Concerns**: Poorly implemented lighting reductions can lead to safety issues, which might necessitate increased use of other resources, such as emergency services, potentially offsetting some environmental benefits.

Mitigation Strategies

- Maintain Adequate Lighting in Key Areas: Ensure that critical areas such as pedestrian crossings, bus stops, and high-crime zones remain well-lit.
- **Community Engagement**: Involve local communities in identifying and reporting areas of concern to ensure timely interventions.
- Enhanced Security Measures: Increase police patrols and install surveillance systems in strategic locations to compensate for reduced lighting

7.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with local groups, partner organisations, experts etc? Where required, identify any other environmental assessments that have been completed.

Budget consultation phases 1 and 2 with opportunity for feedback to be submitted online open until 17 November 2024.

7.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?			
As per previous mitigation responses.			
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or	No – negative impact remains	х	
reduce the negative impact?	Yes – negative impact reduced		
	Yes - negative impact removed		

8: Sign Off

Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?

Phase 1 consultation received general feedback that reducing this level of service would not be welcomed by the public.

Phase 2 consultation seen a more focused concern raised regarding safety by those with protected characteristics of Sex and Age, specifically woman and those of vulnerable age groups.

Does the policy relate to the Council's Equality Outcomes? If yes, how.

No

Overall summary of changes made to the policy as a result of impact assessment.

None

Outline how the impact of policy will be monitored.

Data Collection and Analysis

- **Incident Reports**: Track and analyse data on crime rates, traffic accidents, and emergency service calls before and after the policy implementation to identify any changes.
- Surveys and Feedback: Conduct surveys and gather feedback from residents, local businesses, and community groups to assess their perceptions of safety and any issues they encounter

2. Technology Integration

- **Smart Lighting Systems**: Use the existing Smart lighting systems that allow for remote monitoring and control of our existing streetlights. These systems can provide real-time data on lighting performance and usage patterns.
- **Sensors and Cameras**: Use sensors and cameras to monitor traffic flow, pedestrian activity, and environmental conditions. This data can help assess the effectiveness of the lighting policy and identify areas needing adjustments.

If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.

Service standard would be significantly reduced.

Complaints are likely to increase.

There is a considerable risk of statutory failure. The statutory duty on a Roads Authority is that where streetlights are provided there is a duty to maintain. However, there is not a duty to provide streetlighting where currently no streetlighting infrastructure exists.

Assessment Author	Steve McGuire
Date	20 th February 2025
Chief Officer	M A Reilly
Date	20/02/25