

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 [Human Rights](#)
- 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

Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living 2025/26

1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

The proposal is for the allocation of the £1m funding to support people with the cost of living.

Following the decision to allocate funding at the Council meeting on 5 March 2025, engagement took place with the external advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee to determine the proposals for Supporting People with the Cost of Living funding to be submitted to consideration by the committee. Funding will be allocated to organisations that support people in poverty. Proposed funding includes support for families and children, older and disabled people, and those on low incomes or living in priority neighbourhoods.

Cost of living crisis overview:

While all households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that it is those with lower incomes and little or no savings who will be most impacted as they spend a higher proportion than average on energy, food and transport and they therefore have less flexibility in their budget to cope with price rises.

Low income households with particular characteristics are likely to fare worse. This includes larger families; households in receipt of means-tested benefits (and those narrowly ineligible for means-tested benefits); households who rent their homes; disabled households; households with an unpaid carer; gypsy/travellers; rural and island households; single person households and single parent households. Certain groups are over-represented in these households, most notably minority ethnic groups and women.

More than 8 out of 10 children in relative poverty in Scotland are in at least one of these priority groups:

- lone-parent families
- a household where someone is disabled

- families with three or more children
- minority ethnic families
- families with a child under one year old
- families where the mother is under 25 years of age

1.3 Is this a strategic programme/proposal/decision?

Strategic

1.4 Is this a new or existing policy?

Existing but refreshed for 25/26 allocation

1.5 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

1.6 Committee name and date:

Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee 11 June 2025

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

CORS/25/132

1.8 Function and cluster:

Prevention and Community Empowerment, People and Citizen Services

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 [protected characteristics](#).

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

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

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

The report provides information on proposed funding to support people with cost of living pressures which will be available to all of the protected characteristic groups, as well as those on low incomes or in poverty.

Age: this has been identified as positive as the support with cost of living will be felt by many people of all ages. AberNecessities will support low income families, children and young people. This includes lone parents, kinship carers, working families in low paid jobs, women/men with children fleeing domestic abuse, pregnant women and many families from marginalised groups such as those with no recourse to public funds. They will also provide 600 bundles of clothing for teenagers. Additional funding for winter clothing will support the Council to provide over 4,000 £30 Winter Clothing grants for families who are eligible and receive the School Clothing Grant. Care and Repair will provide a Funding Officer to support over 1,000 older people to access financial advice to maximise incomes and to access wider Care and Repair support. Aberdeen Performing Arts will provide Christmas Panto Package for low income families, to allow them access to opportunities they would otherwise not be able to afford.

Children in Low-income families: Provisional data for 2021/22 estimates that 6,818 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families⁴ - up from 6,172 in 2019/20. Almost two-thirds (62.7%) are in working families and 27% are under 5 years old. Over half (55.6%) of children living in relative low-income families are in lone parent families.

Disability: this has been identified as positive as measures to tackle fuel poverty will support disabled people who may rely on heating for health and wellbeing. Care and Repair money advice services will support over 1,000 older people, disabled people and carers to maximise their incomes.

Pregnancy and maternity:

This has been identified as positive as it is proposed that funding is allocated to provide infant formula, through the CFINE Cash First Infant Crisis Formula Pathway and AberNecessities direct provision, aiming to support families disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis specifically caring for a baby aged 0-1 years old. Caring for a very young baby adds substantial financial burden to families who are already living with low incomes.

Race: this has been identified as positive as CFINE will distribute procured food through 85 organisations across the city, many of which support people from particular race and faith groups. AberNecessities support will include support for minority ethnic families and children, and those with No Recourse to Public Funds.

Sex: this has been identified as positive as support will be provided for 15 vulnerable women in Torry who have various issues including domestic violence, mental health issues, family support, and isolation. Additionally, as identified under pregnancy and maternity, women who are pre-dominant care givers will benefit from the support during maternity and infancy.

Sexual orientation, Gender reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership and Religion or belief:

There is no specific data on these characteristics, but considerations are made from an intersectional point of view to ensure inclusion of all protected characteristics. These have been marked as neutral but are anticipated to be positive by some recipients of services who identify with any of these protected characteristics.

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?

The assessment has been made using:

Previous reports

Previous IIA

[Population-needs-assessment-2023.pdf](#)

The data highlights the key groups who would benefit from this funding as identified in section 1.2

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

The proposals have been developed by a groups of External Advisers to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. The External Advisers considered suggestions identified through the previous year's Committee visits and re-considered ideas gathered as part of the 2024/25 cost of living fund allocation process, particularly in terms of recurring priorities. Organisations previously funded through the cost of living fund updated their proposals for 2025/26 and others were asked to complete a proposal.

We also consulted ACC Benefits Processing Manager to ascertain that we are using relevant data to develop the proposals and outcomes.

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

We have had feedback from organisations that received funding in 2024-25, this includes quotes and case studies which are included in Appendix 1 of the report.

Aberdeen City Voice (July 2024) shows that 25% of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – up from 10% in August 2021. 13.6% of respondents were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 7.6% of respondents reported they could only afford to heat their home or feed themselves, and 12.6% of respondents went without heating for more than one day.

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)?		
There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.		
With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?	High	
	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: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty/guidance-for-public-bodies/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

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 needs, such as food, clothing, housing, or utilities.			x
Low/ no wealth – those who have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future.			x
Material deprivation – those who cannot afford or access goods or 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.			x
Area deprivation – those who live in an area with poor living conditions, such as higher levels of crime, pollution, noise, congestion, or lack of infrastructure, amenities, or green spaces.			x
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.			x

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

The funding will be allocated to organisations that support people in poverty and those living in disadvantaged areas. Proposed funding includes support for families and children, older and disabled people, and those on low incomes or in poverty.

While the organisations are direct recipients of the funding, the end users are citizens who will benefit from the provisions made by the organisations that support people through the disadvantages they may be facing. Each organisation put forward proposals with the aim of improving outcomes for those living in socio-economic disadvantage.

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?

[Population-needs-assessment-2023.pdf](#)

Children in Low-income families: Provisional data for 2021/22 estimates that 6,818 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families⁴ - up from 6,172 in 2019/20. Almost two-thirds (62.7%) are in working families and 27% are under 5 years old. Over half (55.6%) of children living in relative low-income families are in lone parent families. The data highlights the need for more targeted support for children in various family settings.

While all households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that it is those with lower incomes and little or no savings who will be most impacted as they spend a higher proportion than average on energy, food and transport and they therefore have less flexibility in their budget to cope with price rises.

Low income households with particular characteristics are likely to fare worse. This includes larger families; households in receipt of means-tested benefits (and those narrowly ineligible for means-tested benefits); households who rent their homes; disabled households; households with an unpaid carer; gypsy/travellers; rural and island households; single person households and single parent households. Certain groups are over-represented in these households, most notably minority ethnic groups and women.

More than 8 out of 10 children in relative poverty in Scotland are in at least one of these priority groups:

- lone-parent families
- a household where someone is disabled
- families with three or more children
- minority ethnic families
- families with a child under one year old
- families where the mother is under 25 years of age

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

Consultation was undertaken with external advisors to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee.

Data received from CFINE and SCARF in respect of demand for emergency food and debt levels shows that the impact of the cost of living crisis continues to increase with demand for services increasing. Feedback from the external advisers to the committee also confirms this.

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

We have had feedback from organisations that received funding in 2024-25, this includes quotes and case studies which are included in Appendix 1 of the report.

Aberdeen City Voice (July 2024) shows that 25% of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – up from 10% in August 2021. 13.6% of respondents were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 7.6% of respondents reported they could only afford to heat their home or feed themselves, and 12.6% of respondents went without heating for more than one day.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.

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

No – negative impact remains

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: [how-to-meet-the-consumer-duty-guidance-for-public-authorities.pdf](#)

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

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Individuals			x
Small businesses			x

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

Access to additional funding support enables people to afford utilities and other services they require especially through cost of living crisis.

The allocation of this funding will provide better outcomes for individuals who may require additional support. The funding will be allocated to organisations that support people in poverty and may also have an indirect positive impact on staffing and volunteering opportunities through such organisations.

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)?		
There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.		
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains	
	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		X	
Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour		X	
Article 5: Right to liberty and security		X	
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		X	
Article 7: No punishment without law		X	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence			
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		X	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		X	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		X	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		X	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		X	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		X	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		X	

5.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

The policy will have neutral impact on Human Rights as no impact is being taken away.

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)?		
There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.		
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains	
	Yes – negative impact reduced	
	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).

There are 4 articles known as the "General Principles". They help to interpret the other articles. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (Article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (Article 6)
4. Right to be heard (Article 12)

For ease, the articles have been grouped in three categories to support assessments against the Convention, those most directly related to the **PROVISION** of services, those most directly related to the **PROTECTION** of children and young people, and those to encourage their active **PARTICIPATION** in decision making. You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), 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			X
Article 3: best interests of the child provision and protection			X
Article 5: parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		X	
Article 16: right to privacy		X	
Article 17: access to information from the media		X	
Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance			X
Article 22: refugee children			X
Article 23: children with a disability			X
Article 24: health and health services		X	
Article 26: social security		X	
Article 27: adequate standard of living			X
Article 28: right to education		X	
Article 29: goals of education		X	
Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups			X
Article 31: leisure, play and culture		X	
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		X	
Article 40: juvenile justice		X	
PROTECTION			
Article 6: life, survival and development		X	
Article 7: birth registration, name, nationality, care		X	
Article 8: protection and preservation of identity		X	
Article 9: Separation from parents		X	
Article 10: family reunification protection		X	
Article 11: abduction and non-return of children		X	
Article 15: freedom of association		X	

Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect		X	
Article 20: children unable to live with their family			X
Article 21: adoption		X	
Article 25: review of treatment in care		X	
Article 33: drug abuse		X	
Article 34: sexual exploitation		X	
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking		X	
Article 36: other forms of exploitation		X	
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention		X	
Article 38: war and armed conflicts		X	
Article 32: child labour		X	
PARTICIPATION			
Article 12: respect for the views of the child		X	
Article 13: freedom of expression		X	
Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		X	

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

There will be positive impacts to children and their families. As identified, some of the groups who are in relative poverty and live in Scotland belong to at least one of the following groups:

- lone-parent families
- a household where someone is disabled
- families with three or more children
- minority ethnic families
- families with a child under one year old
- families where the mother is under 25 years of age

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)?

There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.

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

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

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 [biodiversity duty](#) and [sustainable procurement duty](#).

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: [Climate change - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and find out more about how Aberdeen is adapting to Climate Change: [Aberdeen Adapts | Aberdeen City Council](#)

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		x	
Active and sustainable travel		x	
Facilities for local living		x	
Resilience and adaptability to flooding and weather events		x	
Biodiversity improvement and wildlife/habitat connectivity		x	
Water consumption and drainage		x	
Pollution (air, water, noise, light and land contamination)		x	
Impact on resource use and waste		x	
Sustainable procurement of goods and services		x	

7.2 In what way will the policy impact the environment?

There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.

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?

The funding is being allocated to organisations who will carry out the delivery of services. Currently there is no data to suggest negative impact on the environment.

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.

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)?

There are no anticipated negative impacts identified as a result of this policy.

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

No – negative impact remains

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?
None
Does the policy relate to the Council's Equality Outcomes? If yes, how:
Yes, the outcomes of this policy will positively contribute to the following outcomes: Equality Outcome 1: All people can access information and services, with systemic, social, and physical barriers identified and minimised through addressing barriers that people might face in accessing services due to financial constraints and other social barriers. Equality Outcome 3: Aberdeen City Council will develop inclusive infrastructure that meets the need of people who use it. The organisations who receive this funding are embedded into communities and are better placed to deliver services directly to citizens who use it. The funding ensures that a variety of organisations are involved in delivering the funding and making it more accessible for the people who need to use the service.
Overall summary of changes made to the policy as a result of impact assessment.
No changes have been made a result of the assessment however, the implementation of the funding will be monitored and reviewed for the impact.
Outline how the impact of policy will be monitored.
Funded organisations will be required to provide 6 monthly and annual feedback. An update and end of year report will be provided to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee.
If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.
There are no negative impacts identified as a result of implementing this policy.

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Date	2.6.25
Chief Officer	Michelle Crombie
Date	3.6.25