

# 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

Den Burn Restoration Project – Funding Update

### 1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

The Report aims to provide Members an update on the funding situation and project status for the Den Burn Restoration Project.

The Recommendations to Committee are:

- 1) Note the content of this Report regarding the current challenging external funding climate alongside the various project options explored; and
- 2) Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to pause the Den Burn Restoration Project indefinitely, while maintaining a watching brief on potential future funding opportunities, and to report back to Committee should any external funding options become viable.

### 1.3 Is this a strategic programme/proposal/decision?

No

### 1.4 Is this a new or existing policy?

Existing project.

### 1.5 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

### 1.6 Committee name and date:

Net Zero, Environment and Transport (NZET) Committee.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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

CR&E/25/061

### 1.8 Function and 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 [protected characteristics](#).

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

Protected Characteristic	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
<a href="#">Age</a>				X	
<a href="#">Disability</a>				X	
<a href="#">Gender Reassignment</a>				X	
<a href="#">Marriage and Civil Partnership</a>				X	
<a href="#">Pregnancy and Maternity</a>				X	
<a href="#">Race</a>				X	
<a href="#">Religion or Belief</a>				X	
<a href="#">Sex</a>				X	
<a href="#">Sexual Orientation</a>				X	

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

Pausing the project will not impact people with 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 project has been paused indefinitely. Pausing the project means work to create an all abilities path will not proceed therefore there will be no positive benefit to people with protected characteristics.

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

A workshop was held with funders and project stakeholders to discuss the project status and funding gap. An option of stopping the project was discussed but options for further external funding was also being considered at the time of the workshop. These options have now been investigated, and no

suitable external grant is currently available to proceed with the project. It is proposed to pause the project whilst maintaining a watching brief on external funding.

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

The Project Steering Group and Board members attended a workshop in April 2025 to discuss project status and funding. Stopping the project was an option and reasons behind this option were discussed in detail. No public consultation has been had to date due to the reliance upon external funding, and this would need to be secured beforehand.

#### 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)?

No mitigation is necessary due to no negative impacts being identified.

##### 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-to-the-guidance-for-public-bodies.aspx)

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

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
<b>Low income</b> – those who have insufficient earnings to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, or utilities.		X	
<b>Low/ no wealth</b> – those who have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future.		X	
<b>Material deprivation</b> – 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	
<b>Area deprivation</b> – 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	
<b>Socio-economic background</b> – social class, parents’ education, employment, income.		X	

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

No positive or negative impacts were identified as part of the proposal to pause the project.

### 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?

The restoration was going to have a positive impact upon those living in area deprivation by improving people's connection with nature and health and wellbeing. Pausing the project will now have a neutral impact on people living in the vicinity of the Den Burn.

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

Previously the project design had been reported twice to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, 10/01/2023 10:00](#), [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, 20/06/2023 10:00](#) and [DenBurnRestorationJune24.pdf](#).

However, the Project requires external funding to develop and deliver the project. Only when external grant funding has been obtained will the project restart and public consultation be considered.

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

No public consultation has been carried out to date. If project was to restart, public engagement events will be carried out during detailed design to promote the project to ensure there is local buy in from local communities.

### 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)?

There have been no negative impacts identified therefore no mitigation is required.

#### 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](#)

### 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?

There is no impact to the consumer as the project is being paused.

#### 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)?**

No negative impacts have been identified therefore no mitigation is required.

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

#### 5.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

Pausing the project will not impact on human rights.

### 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)?		
No negative impacts identified.		
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.

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
<b>PROVISION</b>			
<b>Article 2:</b> non-discrimination		X	
<b>Article 3:</b> best interests of the child provision and protection		X	
<b>Article 5:</b> parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		X	
<b>Article 16:</b> right to privacy		X	
<b>Article 17:</b> access to information from the media		X	
<b>Article 18:</b> parental responsibilities and state assistance		X	
<b>Article 22:</b> refugee children		X	
<b>Article 23:</b> children with a disability		X	
<b>Article 24:</b> health and health services		X	
<b>Article 26:</b> social security		X	
<b>Article 27:</b> adequate standard of living		X	
<b>Article 28:</b> right to education		X	
<b>Article 29:</b> goals of education		X	
<b>Article 30:</b> children from minority or indigenous groups		X	
<b>Article 31:</b> leisure, play and culture		X	
<b>Article 39:</b> recovery from trauma and reintegration		X	
<b>Article 40:</b> juvenile justice		X	
<b>PROTECTION</b>			
<b>Article 6:</b> life, survival and development		X	
<b>Article 7:</b> birth registration, name, nationality, care		X	
<b>Article 8:</b> protection and preservation of identity		X	
<b>Article 9:</b> Separation from parents		X	
<b>Article 10:</b> family reunification protection		X	
<b>Article 11:</b> abduction and non-return of children		X	

<b>Article 15:</b> freedom of association		X	
<b>Article 19:</b> protection from violence, abuse and neglect		X	
<b>Article 20:</b> children unable to live with their family		X	
<b>Article 21:</b> adoption		X	
<b>Article 25:</b> review of treatment in care		X	
<b>Article 33:</b> drug abuse		X	
<b>Article 34:</b> sexual exploitation		X	
<b>Article 35:</b> abduction, sale and trafficking		X	
<b>Article 36:</b> other forms of exploitation		X	
<b>Article 37:</b> inhumane treatment and detention		X	
<b>Article 38:</b> war and armed conflicts		X	
<b>Article 32:</b> child labour		X	
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>			
<b>Article 12:</b> respect for the views of the child		X	
<b>Article 13:</b> freedom of expression		X	
<b>Article 14:</b> freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
<b>Article 42:</b> knowledge of rights		X	

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

Pausing the project will not impact children and young people.

## 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)?

No negative impacts have been identified therefore no mitigation is needed.

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
<a href="#">Council or City-wide carbon emissions</a>		X	

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

## 7.2 In what way will the policy impact the environment?

Pausing the project will not negatively impact the environment but will delay/ possibly permanently stop the wide ranging anticipated benefits to the environment being delivered until external funding can be secured.

## 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?

No internal or external data have been considered over the proposal to pause the project.

The environmental benefits associated with the restoration work were identified with a specialist river restoration consultant who has helped develop concept design. Details of the material reuse and environment improvements can be found in Appendix B (Materials Assessment Report) and Appendix E (Sustainable Strategy) of the Concept Design Report. These strategies will be further developed through Detailed Design and Construction if external grant money can be found, and the project can be restarted.

### 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.

Currently the Project is at high level design. No public consultation has taken place to date. Public engagement will take place as part of Detailed Design, if project is restarted.

## 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)?

No negative impacts were identified therefore no mitigation is required.

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?

Should the project restart, community engagement will be an essential element of project delivery and will include contacting community and support groups as part of project awareness raising and participation for public events.

### Does the policy relate to the Council's [Equality Outcomes](#)? If yes, how.

N/A



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

None made.

**Outline how the impact of policy will be monitored.**

No monitoring is required if the project is being paused. Officers from Climate Environment Policy Service will update and liaise with the Steering Group and Project Board to confirm pausing, and reach out to them if project restarts. The Climate Environment Policy Service will stay in touch with the external funding team to ensure there is a watching brief on suitable external funding for the project.

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

N/A

<b>Assessment Author</b>	Sue Cumming
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<b>Date</b>	05/05/2025
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<b>Chief Officer</b>	David Dunne
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<b>Date</b>	19/05/2025
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