

The purpose of Aberdeen City Council is to protect the people and the place of Aberdeen from harm, enabling them to prosper and supporting them in the event of harm happening.

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council are making decisions in an informed way, and that the impact of decisions made is understood and accepted. The legislation that is considered within this assessment are:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 5 [Children and Young People’s Rights](#)

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

<b>1.1 Title</b>
Remove Bus Shelters
<b>1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?</b>
Indicative saving of £270,000 (2025/26) from the removal of bus shelters. Estimated expenditure of £250,000 (2024/25) would be required to remove the shelters initially.
The proposal intends to achieve budget savings by removing all shelters and replacing them with simple bus stop pole and flags, this would still meet our legislative obligation to provide a bus boarding point and will reduce costs in the long term with repairs, maintenance etc. This would have an initial spend to remove all existing shelters (estimated at £250k), but a number could be salvaged and sold, although this would require further scoping in terms of what sale value might be, but it could recoup in the region of 50% of the initial outlay.
By removing all shelters and replacing them with simple bus stop pole and flags, we would still meet our legislative obligation to provide a bus boarding point and will reduce costs in the long term with repairs, maintenance etc.
<b>1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?</b>
New
<b>1.4 Is this report going to a committee?</b>
Will be considered as part of the 2024/25 budget proposals
<b>1.5 Committee name and date:</b>
Council, 6 March 2024

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

OSM-15

## Impacts

This section demonstrates the considerations that have been made in relation to the policy - and that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted.

### 2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies the [protected characteristics](#) that the policy potentially affects and records the impact and mitigating steps.

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

Protected Characteristic	What is the impact?				
	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?

Removal of bus shelters could negatively affect those who rely on rest points, particularly when waiting for public transport to arrive. Lack of shelter could also impact on the wellbeing of all age groups, due to lack of shelter from the elements.

Without bus shelters information at stops can be reduced such as the ability to display timetables for high volume stops, real-time, this can impact those who do not have access to smart devices or the internet There could also be reduced lighting, which could impact sense of security.

#### 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?**

Review of Local Transport Strategy.

Data from the phase 2 consultation process has been reviewed and the option is clearly unpopular with the citizens of Aberdeen with suggestions that we should be increasing the numbers of bus shelters, not reducing them.

There were no additional concerns for impacts on people with protected characteristics, other than those which had been highlighted by the service pre-consultation.

**What consultation and engagement and 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 and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy (e.g. citizens, community groups, or other people/groups)?**

Aberdeen City Council launched a three-part public consultation around the 2024/25 Budget and future spending plans from July 2023 to January 2024. In part 1, which ran throughout July 2023, people were asked to award points across different service areas to indicate where they thought the council’s spending priorities should be. In part 2, the public could either increase, decrease or not change the level of expenditure in areas listed. In part 3, which took place throughout January 2024, there were two face to face sessions for the public to attend and an online consultation. There were 3,179 responses to part 1, 2,564 responses to part 2 and 285 responses to part 3. Included in all parts of the consultation was a specific question regarding the proposal to Remove Bus Shelters.

In part 2, 70% of respondents wanted no reduction in expenditure, with only 10% in favour of a 50% reduction and 20% in favour of a 100% reduction.

There were no positive comments received in part 3 with all commentary being against the proposal proceeding, with a selection of comments below:

“By removing the bus shelters again, as a woman I would be impacted by this as it is often safer to wait at a bus shelter with others compared to a bus stop pole.”

“Removal of bus shelters will have impact on anyone who uses bus as a means of transportation because during rain, one has to be under the rain to wait for bus.”

“Removal of bus shelters and park&ride waiting areas may also leave women feeling less safe.”

“Removing bus shelters will discourage people to use buses especially in bad weather.”

“Shelters should remain - have you stood in the cold and rain in Aberdeen waiting for a bus.?”

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

Information is now readily available through various apps as to bus arrival times, exact locations and capacity, so passengers can plan their journey and reduce time waiting at bus stops. Such information being available through smart devices can reduce the need for at bus stop information.

For those not able to access information in advance or through a personal device, new technology at bus stops can be used, such as e-paper timetables and electronic flags, where relevant information can be easily relayed digitally, at the same time it is not anticipated such features would be affordable if provision of bus shelters is not affordable.

<b>With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?</b>	High	
	Medium	X
	Low	
	Negative Impact Removed	

**3: Socio-Economic Impacts**

This section is used to consider the impact of the policy on people who might be **unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children, those with protected characteristics** as examples.

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/)

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

Group	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.		X			
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future		X			
Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies		X			
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)				X	
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.		X			

### 3.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these groups?

Removal of bus shelters will reduce the quality of transport this would have a medium Negative impact on access to Work, Education, Shopping, Health as those who cannot walk or cycle, may have no other alternative or be able to afford car/fuel costs and rely on public transport services.

### 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?**

Review of Local Transport Strategy.

Data from the phase 2 consultation process has been reviewed and the option is clearly unpopular with the citizens of Aberdeen with suggestions that we should be increasing the numbers of bus shelters, not reducing them.

**What consultation and engagement and 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 and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy? citizens, community groups, or other people/groups impacted by this policy?**

Aberdeen City Council launched a three-part public consultation around the 2024/25 Budget and future spending plans from July 2023 to January 2024. In part 1, which ran throughout July 2023, people were asked to award points across different service areas to indicate where they thought the council's spending priorities should be. In part 2, the public could either increase, decrease or not change the level of expenditure in areas listed. In part 3, which took place throughout January 2024, there were two face to face sessions for the public to attend and an online consultation. There were 3,179 responses to part 1, 2,564 responses to part 2 and 285 responses to part 3. Included in all parts of the consultation was a specific question regarding the proposal to Remove Bus Shelters.

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“By removing the bus shelters again, as a woman I would be impacted by this as it is often safer to wait at a bus shelter with others compared to a bus stop pole.”

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“Removal of bus shelters and park&ride waiting areas may also leave women feeling less safe.”

“Removing bus shelters will discourage people to use buses especially in bad weather.”

“Shelters should remain - have you stood in the cold and rain in Aberdeen waiting for a bus.?”

### 3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

#### What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?

Public transport services would continue to be available, although the waiting experience would be of lower quality than currently and put public transport users at a disadvantage over other forms of transport.

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

High	
Medium	X
Low	
Negative Impact Removed	

## 4: 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](#).

### 4.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

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

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

No impacts identified

#### 4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

N/A

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

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

## 5: 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 – 25 years old).

The Conventions are also known as the “General Principles” and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. 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)

You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), to find out more about the rights that are included.

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

UNCRC and Optional Protocols	Negative	Neutral	Positive
<b>Article 1:</b> definition of the child		X	
<b>Article 2:</b> non-discrimination		X	
<b>Article 3:</b> best interests of the child		X	
<b>Article 4:</b> implementation of the convention		X	
<b>Article 5:</b> parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		X	
<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		X	
<b>Article 11:</b> abduction and non-return of children		X	
<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 15:</b> freedom of association		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 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 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 25:</b> review of treatment in care		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 32:</b> child labour		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 39:</b> recovery from trauma and reintegration		X	
<b>Article 40:</b> juvenile justice		X	
<b>Article 41:</b> respect for higher national standards		X	
<b>Article 42:</b> knowledge of rights		X	
<b>Optional</b> Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

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

No impacts identified

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

N/A

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

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed



## 6: Sign Off

<b>Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?</b>
No other impacts considered.
<b>Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.</b>
No changes.
<b>Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.</b>
Through bus patronage figures provided via the Bus Partnership Alliance.
<b>If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.</b>

<b>Assessment Author</b>	Andy Campbell
<b>Date</b>	02/02/2024
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Mark Reilly
<b>Date</b>	26/02/2024