

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>
Working in Partnership for Aberdeen - Supporting people with the cost of living: round two of funding allocations
<b>1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?</b>
The proposal is for the second rounds of allocations from the £1m funding to support people with the cost of living.
<b>1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?</b>
These are new proposals for allocating funding, although there have been previous allocations of funding for this purpose were made by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee on 12 June 2024.
<b>1.4 Is this report going to a committee?</b>
Yes
<b>1.5 Committee name and date:</b>
Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee 28 August 2024.
<b>1.6 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:</b>
CORS/24/229
<b>1.7 Function and cluster:</b>
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## 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>					√
<a href="#">Disability</a>					√
<a href="#">Gender Reassignment</a>					√
<a href="#">Marriage and Civil Partnership</a>					√
<a href="#">Pregnancy and Maternity</a>					√
<a href="#">Race</a>					√
<a href="#">Religion or Belief</a>					√
<a href="#">Sex</a>					√
<a href="#">Sexual Orientation</a>					√

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

The proposals cover a range of universal actions to support people with cost of living pressures which will be available to all of the protected characteristic groups. For example, the distribution of procured food through food banks across the city, many of which support people from particular race groups, crisis grants and community care grants and fuel vouchers/ advice. Further, a specific proposal will support the provision of the basic necessities to babies, children, teenagers and families across Aberdeen. 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.

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?

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

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

Engagement has taken place with members of Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, the Council's Strategy Group and the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. A large number of ideas were received and proposals were considered by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee external advisers and assessed as low, medium or high priority using the following principles:

- Alleviation of poverty and achieve best outcomes for people

- Consider a seasonal approach to reflect differing needs, with more than one allocation
- Ensure coverage of range of poverty issues, addressing crisis needs and prevention
- Avoid funding new posts which may not be financially sustainable and could lead to unemployment due to funding being non-recurring

**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)?**

There has been no direct consultation with groups, but the experiences and needs of groups has been reflected through engagement with services and organisations directly dealing with people.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

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

No negative impact has been 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

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 \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

#### 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.					√
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future					√
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					√
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)					√
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.					√

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

The policy is aimed at mitigating the cost of living for people and will support people from disadvantaged areas and in poverty and will include indirect help. For example, while there is no direct proposal included about the cost of transport, there will likely be mitigation of the impact on travel costs for people through the provision of eg emergency food, support with fuel costs, crisis grants and community care grants for families as well as essentials for underprivileged families.

#### 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?**

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

Data provided by ACC Revenues and Benefits Team also shows that demand for crisis grants and community care grants has been increasing, beyond funding provided by the Scottish Government.

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

**Engagement has taken place with members of Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, the Council's Strategy Group and the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. A large number of ideas were received and proposals were considered by the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee external advisers and assessed as low, medium or high priority using the following principles:**

- Alleviation of poverty and achieve best outcomes for people
- Consider a seasonal approach to reflect differing needs, with more than one allocation
- Ensure coverage of range of poverty issues, addressing crisis needs and prevention

- Avoid funding new posts which may not be financially sustainable and could lead to unemployment due to funding being non-recurring

**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?

There has been no direct consultation with groups, but the experiences and needs of groups has been reflected through engagement with services and organisations directly dealing with people.

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

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

No negative impact has been identified

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

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

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

The potential prevention and mitigation of the impact of the cost of living will mitigate costs for people and under Article 8, this will impact and support the right to participate in essential economic, social, cultural and leisure activities.

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

<b>What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?</b>	
No negative impact identified	
<b>If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?</b>	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		√	
<b>Article 2:</b> non-discrimination		√	
<b>Article 3:</b> best interests of the child			√
<b>Article 4:</b> implementation of the convention		√	
<b>Article 5:</b> parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities			√
<b>Article 6:</b> life, survival and development		√	
<b>Article 7:</b> birth registration, name, nationality, care		√	
<b>Article 8:</b> protection and preservation of identity		√	
<b>Article 9:</b> separation from parents		√	
<b>Article 10:</b> family reunification		√	
<b>Article 11:</b> abduction and non-return of children		√	
<b>Article 12:</b> respect for the views of the child		√	
<b>Article 13:</b> freedom of expression		√	
<b>Article 14:</b> freedom of thought, belief and religion		√	
<b>Article 15:</b> freedom of association		√	
<b>Article 16:</b> right to privacy		√	
<b>Article 17:</b> access to information from the media		√	
<b>Article 18:</b> parental responsibilities and state assistance			√
<b>Article 19:</b> protection from violence, abuse and neglect			√
<b>Article 20:</b> children unable to live with their family		√	
<b>Article 21:</b> adoption		√	
<b>Article 22:</b> refugee children		√	
<b>Article 23:</b> children with a disability		√	
<b>Article 24:</b> health and health services		√	
<b>Article 25:</b> review of treatment in care		√	
<b>Article 26:</b> social security			√
<b>Article 27:</b> adequate standard of living			√
<b>Article 28:</b> right to education		√	

<b>Article 29:</b> goals of education		√	
<b>Article 30:</b> children from minority or indigenous groups			√
<b>Article 31:</b> leisure, play and culture		√	
<b>Article 32:</b> child labour		√	
<b>Article 33:</b> drug abuse		√	
<b>Article 34:</b> sexual exploitation		√	
<b>Article 35:</b> abduction, sale and trafficking		√	
<b>Article 36:</b> other forms of exploitation		√	
<b>Article 37:</b> inhumane treatment and detention		√	
<b>Article 38:</b> war and armed conflicts		√	
<b>Article 39:</b> recovery from trauma and reintegration		√	
<b>Article 40:</b> juvenile justice		√	
<b>Article 41:</b> respect for higher national standards		√	
<b>Article 42:</b> knowledge of rights		√	
<b>Optional</b> Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

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

The proposals include specific support for the provision of the basic necessities to babies, children, teenagers and families across Aberdeen. 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. Further proposals mitigate the impact of the cost of living on families which will support the rights of children to home and family life, development and opportunities.

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

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

No negative impacts identified

**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>
None identified
<b>Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.</b>
The proposals have been tailored to reflect the needs of people through the data and feedback received during the engagement for developing the paper.
<b>Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.</b>
Progress and impact of the proposals will be reported back in future Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee papers.
<b>If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.</b>
n/a

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<b>Date</b>	20/08/24
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Michelle Crombie
<b>Date</b>	20/0824