

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

2026/27 Budget IIA - LLA Review of concessionary and age related discount to LLA activities.

Assessment ID	IIA-003415
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Service Reviewers	Chris Murphy
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Approved By	Allan Rae
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Income generation by revising a % concession discount applied to LLA activities. Moving low income discount from 60% to 35%. Retaining age related discount at 35% but Increasing age of eligibility of age related discount from over 60yrs to over 65yrs.

During screening 4 of 12 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 2 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated. The impact on 2 groups is not known, information is provided in the detailed sections of this document.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by allan.rae2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and / or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	No
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy relate to budget proposals?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on consumers of Council services?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)			Yes	
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income			Yes	
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>The proposal involves increasing the age from 60 to 65 in which the discount is applied, this would impact those within that particular age group.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Engagement will take place the Lived Experience panel to understand the impacts that could be faced as a result of this change with further mitigation planned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transitional pricing or phased introduction over 2 years - Additional signposting to wellbeing pathways (e.g. exercise on referral) - Commitment to continue to modernise the service offer <p>Timescale To be determined.</p>
Low income	<p>The impact will be the cost for membership will be increase by approximately £10 per month for an individual currently receiving a low income discount.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Engagement will take place with the Lived Experience Panel supported by Colleagues in Tackling Poverty and Inequalities with feedback expected from the panel to further shape mitigation.</p> <p>Timescale Feb 2026</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Internal review of competitor pricing	That LLA pricing remains at the lower end of the market. The discount offered on top of this drags the average price of a membership down, and in effect devalues the product and service offered.	LLA has capacity to generate income to the council through appropriate pricing of the membership product.
External Consultation	Corporate Budget Survey (25/26)	When asked if the service should review prices and membership offering so that we cover the cost of providing services, most respondents were supportive of this.	It means that public, on the whole, agree that income generation is an important part of budget building, and the the service should be reviewing fees and charges in order to off set operating costs. Only 14% disagreed with this sentiment, with only 4% strongly disagreeing.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Budget data	Move to 20% concession rate will yield an additional £530k per annum based on current membership numbers. This does not include any other activity pricing which may be affected.	Potentially impacting 3,500 individuals per modelling.
External Consultation	Lived Experience Panel Feedback	<p>The price increases to low income and age related discounts would prove challenging in the current cost of living climate. The panel stressed the importance of exercises for mental and health wellbeing and recognised the benefits of downstream impacts on Health and Social Care services.</p> <p>There was broad support for the value of the product on offer and consensus that because of significant change from 60% to 20% discount that this should be on a transitional basis over 2 years to mitigate the impact of cost increase.</p> <p>Retaining a Pay & Play option for low income would also help mitigate any reduction.</p>	<p>The proposal to shift from 60% to 20% is felt too severe, too much too soon and therefore the service are proposing to have a standardised approach across all discounts to 35% however increasing current age related discount from over 60 to over 65 years.</p> <p>The rationale for settling on a 35% discount because this already an established discounted price point for age related discounts. Recognising that this does not impact the current discount offered for age related discount but increasing the age from 60 to 65 recognises the aging population in Aberdeenshire and that people are living longer.</p>

4.5. Information Gaps

Feedback from a lived experience panel.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
The service is actively in conversation with the TPI (Tackling Poverty and Inequalities) team to ensure a meaningful panel can be engaged with to full understand the potential impact of this change. Feedback included in this assessment.	Q4 2025/26

4.7. Engagement with affected groups

Engagement with internal stakeholders and service officers. LLA membership holders will be most affected. In addition, the council asked public in the 25/26 budget engagement survey if they thought increasing prices for paid activities should be considered, which was widely accepted as a good idea.

4.8. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

The impact will be to LLA paid for activities only. Free to use services remain, including the Essentials Membership, which allows for one use per month. Also, there still would remain a discount price for low income and age related, by 20% of the headline price point.

4.9. Evidence of engagement

Headline price points are budget range, and remain under mid-market gym pricing. prior budget consultation remains a useful source of sentiment, however the view of those with lived experience could be captured to provide a fuller implication to this budget consideration. This is listed as an action.

4.10. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

A negative impact could be that members chose not to continue as paid members. The proposal increases the cost of a product.

Free to use services remain, including access to leisure through the LLA Essentials scheme. Also, in the year 25/26 the service updated its commitment to keeping "the promise" where all care experienced individuals now qualify for 100% discount to all LLA activities up until the age of 26yrs. In addition, there remains a discount for low income and age related, which is 20%, albeit reduced from 60%. In real terms this may seem a large increase, however, the total cost for gym membership (for example), would be £240 per year, instead of £300. This remains "budget range" in the gym market.

4.11. Improving Relations

Good member communications will be essential to ensure that value for money is felt by existing members. The service will continue to work with the lived experience and TPI team to ensure that the service developments are continually informed by this ongoing feedback.

4.12. Opportunities of Equality

The service anticipates more delivery, more focus on health and wellbeing, more partnership working with social care and children's services and this promotes and provides more opportunity for access through targeted programming. This programming must be sustainable, and income generation is a very important part of that (the net service cost to the council c. £14m per annum)

5. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

5.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity				Yes
	Will find out by: It is unknown at this stage as to whether individuals as a result of price changes decide to withdraw their membership. With the mitigation proposed and further mitigation as a result of engagement with the Lived Experience Panel this will hopefully reduce the numbers of people withdrawing their membership or participation in general in sport and physical activity.			
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health				Yes
	Will find out by: There is a possible link to a decline in mental health should an individual not be able to afford the increase in price and therefore have to forgo the activity/membership. Support would be provided to these individuals in the form of sign posting to alternative activities and programmes which may also support them. Feedback from the lived experience panel will help inform next steps.			

5.2. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Lived Experience Panel	Feedback from the lived experience panel is expected to inform the mitigation as part of any changes to pricing structure and concessionary discounts.	Service users will be able to influence decision making.

5.3. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

At this stage all negative impacts can be mitigated to some extent. Further dialogue and refinement of the mitigation will take place following engagement with service users and lived experience panel.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Ensure that price increases are applied to all products following confirmation of acceptance at the full council meeting.	<p>Lead Officer Allan Rae</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Friday February 27, 2026</p> <p>Planned Finish Monday March 16, 2026</p> <p>Expected Outcome Price points applied to membership produces correctly and on time</p> <p>Resource Implications Officer time</p>
Ensure engagement with the lived experience panel, working via the TPI team.	<p>Lead Officer Allan Rae</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Wednesday January 28, 2026</p> <p>Planned Finish Tuesday March 31, 2026</p> <p>Expected Outcome Informed potential impact of this discount reduction, and clear approach to mitigations on an ongoing basis</p> <p>Resource Implications Officer time</p>