

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### General Fund Budget Savings 2026/27 - Cessation of Sheltered Housing Support Contribution

Assessment ID	IIA-003378
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Approved By	Ally Macleod
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# 1. Overview

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

The assessment relates to a proposed General Fund saving associated with a legacy grant (Supporting People) contribution made towards the provision of Sheltered Housing Support. The assessment is linked to the Review of Sheltered Housing currently being overseen by the Communities Committee and forming one of the key Workstreams associated with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Review. This IIA should therefore be viewed in this context and the individual and project wide impact assessments completed and considered on a transitional basis. Impact Assessments have also been considered by the overarching HRA Business Plan Review and this particular IIA should therefore be considered in this context. The consultation process associated with both the HRA Business Plan Review and Review of Sheltered Housing is comprehensive, with considerable work undertaken to ensure that tenants and service users are fully aware of impacts. The Review of Sheltered Housing required the de-registration of Sheltered Housing Support with the Care Inspectorate, due to the requirement to transition to a tenancy and building management approach to service provision. One of the key objectives of the Sheltered Housing Review is to achieve a full cost recovery model and reduce to substantial level of subsidy provided by the HRA to sustain the portfolio and deliver Sheltered Housing Support, which falls under the H&SC non-residential charging policy, not a housing policy. The withdrawal of Sheltered Housing Support does assist in reducing HRA levels of subsidy, but loss of General Fund contribution will have an impact on tenants and service users that must be assessed.

During screening 3 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 is 1 positive impact as part of this activity. There are 5 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 15 have been mitigated and 0 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by ally.macleod2@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?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
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?	No

## 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All 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		Yes	
Low wealth			Yes	
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

### 4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Low income	There may be some positive impact for tenants who are in receipt of a 'care element' benefit, this is considered as income for the H&SC financial assessment for affordability to pay the housing support charges. Such individuals will no longer have this included in the financial assessment if they apply for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, meaning they are able to keep the care element of their benefit and use as they wish to pay for services or products to assist them to live independently.

### 4.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
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Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p><b>Age (Older)</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of General Fund sheltered housing support contribution has been identified as having a potential negative effect on tenants' mental health and emotional wellbeing, particularly for older people.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      A Joint Programme Board between Housing, Health and Social Care and Live Life Aberdeenshire oversees the review process and monitors health and wellbeing impacts across schemes. The Board will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Age (Older)</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of General Fund sheltered housing support contribution has been identified as having a potential negative effect on tenants' mental health and emotional wellbeing, particularly for older people.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      A Sheltered Housing Project Board monitors the progress of the Review of Sheltered Housing, with a clear focus on tenant wellbeing. The Project Board reports to the Council's Communities Committee on a regular basis and Area Committees as required. The Board will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Age (Older)</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of General Fund sheltered housing support contribution has been identified as having a potential negative effect on tenants' mental health and emotional wellbeing, particularly for older people.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Sheltered Housing Review process is managed and overseen by a dedicated team with the aim of ensuring that tenants are supported throughout the transition process. The team will consider whether any signposting for assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of the General Fund sheltered housing support contribution may result in disproportionate impacts on protected groups, particularly disabled tenants, and those with long-term health conditions.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      A Joint Programme Board between Housing, Health and Social Care and Live Life Aberdeenshire oversees the review process and monitors health and wellbeing impacts across schemes. The Board will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Low income</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of sheltered housing support may result in disproportionate impacts on protected groups, particularly those with a low income. The contribution currently offsets the level of subsidy required to maintain the Sheltered Housing portfolio and withdrawal may have an impact on levels of rent and service charges.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      A Joint Programme Board between Housing, Health and Social Care and Live Life Aberdeenshire oversees the review process. The Board will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>
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<p><b>Low wealth</b></p>	<p>The withdrawal of General Fund sheltered housing support contribution may result in disproportionate impacts on protected groups, particularly those with low wealth. The contribution currently offsets the level of subsidy required to maintain the Sheltered Housing portfolio and withdrawal may have an impact on levels of rent and service charges.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      A Joint Programme Board between Housing, Health and Social Care and Live Life Aberdeenshire oversees the review process. The Board will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>
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Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Low wealth	<p>The withdrawal of General Fund sheltered housing support contribution may result in disproportionate impacts on protected groups, particularly those with low wealth. The contribution currently offsets the level of subsidy required to maintain the Sheltered Housing portfolio and withdrawal may have an impact on levels of rent and service charges.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Sheltered Housing Review process is managed and overseen by a dedicated team with the aim of ensuring that tenants are supported throughout the transition process. The team will consider whether any additional signposting or other assistance is required for tenants impacted.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing</p>

#### 4.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Data gathered throughout the Sheltered Housing Review process.	The Communities Committee and Area Committees have had the opportunity to consider wide ranging data that demonstrates the requirement for a review of Sheltered Housing and the deregistration of Sheltered Housing Support as a key element. Data considered included; Occupancy rates, financials (Net Present Value), extensive Internal consultation involving tenants, service users and stakeholders and other documentation associated with the Review process.	The Sheltered Housing Review process has demonstrated the extent of the level of subsidy, from the Housing Revenue Account required to deliver Sheltered Housing services. Whilst receipt of Sheltered Housing Support has traditionally offset the cost of delivering services, it is insufficient and effectiveness has therefore been eroded over time. The deregistration and withdrawal of Sheltered Housing Support has therefore been central to the Review process, in order to reduce levels of subsidy through reductions in cost. The withdrawal of funding from the General Fund will have an impact within this element.

#### 4.6. Engagement with affected groups

The Consultation process has ensured that Sheltered Housing tenants have remained central to the Review process, through both ongoing engagement with the relevant Tenant Group and wider consultation with tenants and applicants for sheltered housing through postal survey. The use of Engage HQ has further enhanced opportunities for Sheltered Housing tenants and the wider community to participate in the Sheltered Housing Review process.

## **4.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups**

Consultation has been undertaken using a wide range of methods to ensure all those with protected characteristics have had the opportunity to engage. Consultation methods adopted have been considered and approved by the Council's Communities Committee throughout the Sheltered Housing Review Process.

## **4.8. Evidence of engagement**

A wide range of methods have been adopted as part of the Sheltered Housing process, that directly links to this activity. Engagement within Sheltered Housing schemes and the wider community has ensured that those with lived experience of the Sheltered Housing service have had the opportunity to participate:

1. Tenant meetings
2. Postal Survey of Sheltered Housing tenants and Applicants for Sheltered Housing.
3. Ongoing Engagement with Sheltered Housing Tenant Forum and independent Chair.
4. Consultation via Engage Aberdeenshire.

## **4.9. Overall Outcome**

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Whilst the Sheltered Housing Review process includes a requirement for the deregistration of Sheltered Housing Support, it is inevitable that the withdrawal of General Fund contribution to Sheltered Housing will impact. This is based on the financial pressures associated with the delivery of services and the level of subsidy required from the Housing Revenue Account. Negative impacts can be mitigated as outlined.

## **4.10. Improving Relations**

The Housing & Building Standards Service will continue to engage with tenants. An undertaking has also been provided to ensure one to one ongoing engagement with individual tenants impacted the proposed changes.

The Sheltered Housing Tenants Forum has been a key focus for engagement over the period of the Review and will continue to receive updates and will be central to the wider review of service provision Sheltered Housing.

## **4.11. Opportunities of Equality**

The level of engagement undertaken throughout the Review of Sheltered Housing and the wider Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review has ensured higher levels of participation ensuring sector levels of engagement in required service redesign in light of current economic pressures. It is hoped that this approach will form the basis for future engagement and to promote greater levels of understanding and transparency in respect of the Housing Revenue Account. Commitment has been undertaken to work with communities and community council's, to ensure they are kept up to date and any future opportunities for joint working are explored.

## 5. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### 5.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity		Yes		
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health			Yes	

### 5.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Mental health	<p>The withdrawal of the General Fund Sheltered Housing Support contribution may impact mental health. The offset in HRA subsidy achieved through the contribution may lead to increased levels of rent and service charges, leading to anxiety and wellbeing concerns.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation A Joint Programme Board between Housing, Health and Social Care and Live Life Aberdeenshire oversees the review process and monitors health and wellbeing impacts across schemes</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Mental health	<p>The withdrawal of the General Fund Sheltered Housing Support contribution may impact mental health. The offset in HRA subsidy achieved through the contribution may lead to increased levels of rent and service charges, leading to anxiety and wellbeing concerns.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation A Sheltered Housing Review Project Board provides a comprehensive level of oversight, with regular reports provided to the Councils Communities Committee and Area Committees as required.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Mental health	<p>The withdrawal of the General Fund Sheltered Housing Support contribution may impact mental health. The offset in HRA subsidy achieved through the contribution may lead to increased levels of rent and service charges, leading to anxiety and wellbeing concerns.</p> <p>Can be mitigated                      Yes</p> <p>Mitigation                      The Review of Sheltered Housing is being delivered in a transitional manner. managed by dedicated staff with a focus on ensuring the wellbeing of tenants throughout the process. Any concerns regarding mental health impacts will be escalated via existing referral pathways.</p> <p>Timescale                      Ongoing.</p>

### 5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Data gathered throughout the Sheltered Housing Review process.	The Communities Committee and Area Committees have had the opportunity to consider wide ranging data that demonstrates the requirement for a review of Sheltered Housing and the deregistration of Sheltered Housing Support as a key element. Data considered included; Occupancy rates, financials (Net Present Value), extensive Internal consultation involving tenants, service users and stakeholders and other documentation associated with the Review process.	The Sheltered Housing Review process has demonstrated the extent of the level of subsidy, from the Housing Revenue Account required to deliver Sheltered Housing services. Whilst receipt of Sheltered Housing Support has traditionally offset the cost of delivering services, it is insufficient and effectiveness has therefore been eroded over time. The deregistration and withdrawal of Sheltered Housing Support has therefore been central to the Review process, in order to reduce levels of subsidy through reductions in cost. The withdrawal of funding from the General Fund will have an impact within this element.

### 5.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The impact outlined can be mitigated through a focus on wellbeing throughout the transitional change process.

## 6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>To continue with the delivery of a comprehensive level of support and the provision of ongoing advice and guidance to those impacted by the Review of Sheltered Housing.</p>	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Andrew Mackie</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Thursday January 22, 2026</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Monday January 21, 2030</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> Mitigation of mental health risks</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Within existing resources</p>