

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Budget Savings Proposal - Stop Consultations by Flooding Team on Planning Applications

Assessment ID	IIA-002629
Lead Author	Gavin Penman
Service Reviewers	Philip McKay, Bill Lennox
Subject Matter Experts	Suzanne Rhind, Susan Forbes, George Howie, Claudia Cowie, Yvonne D'Ambruso, Kakuen Mo, Jane Wilkinson, Ricki Lyon, Jade Fitzpatrick
Approved By	Philip McKay
Approved On	Thursday January 16, 2025
Publication Date	Friday January 24, 2025

1. Overview

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

The Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are a non-statutory consultee on planning applications. The team uses local knowledge and historical data to enhance the process, resulting in fewer future issues related to flooding and drainage. Although SEPA are also a consultee, the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are increasingly serving as the principal consultee, regularly providing advice to committees.

During screening 4 of 11 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 4 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 11 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by philip.mckay@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?	Yes
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?	Yes
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?	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

3. Impact Assessments

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

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes	Yes	
Disability		Yes	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	Yes	
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>If the proposals result in increased flood risk this may impact older people more significantly.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Disability	<p>If the proposals result in increased flood risk this may impact disabled people more significantly.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>
Low income	<p>If the proposals result in increased flood risk this may impact people on low income more significantly.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>
Low wealth	<p>If the proposals result in increased flood risk this may impact people with low wealth more significantly.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Building Public Health Resilience to Fluvial Flooding in Scotland - CREW	In Scotland certain groups – children, older people, those living alone, with pre-existing chronic illness or disability and stressful life circumstances, place-based occupations, low incomes, rural and remote areas – are all more vulnerable to flooding and to extremes of heat and cold	Evidence of the impacts of flooding on various groups.

4.5. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.

Developers could be required to self-certify; however the team have encountered challenges with getting consultants to comply with a self-check process for drainage designs. It's also important to note that Planning already requires developers to submit Flood Risk Assessments for certain

larger developments.

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>If flooding issues are not identified during the Planning process, development may proceed in areas subject to flood risk, resulting in future flooding of residential properties. People who experience flooding are at higher risk of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 ongoing</p>

5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Exploring the Social Impacts of Flood Risk and Flooding in Scotland, University of Dundee	<p>The greatest health impacts of flooding in the UK are on mental health. People who experience flooding are at higher risk of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.</p> <p>A small number of Scottish-based studies have investigated the impacts of flooding on people and communities. One of the earliest studies found that flooding impacts directly on both physical and psychological health, with a strong interaction between the two. Similarly, a more recent CREW study demonstrated long-term (>3 years after the flood) negative impacts on physical and emotional wellbeing.</p>	Confirms the potential mental health impacts of flooding.

5.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.

Developers could be required to self-certify; however the team have encountered challenges with getting consultants to comply with a self-check process for drainage designs. It's also important to note that Planning already requires developers to submit Flood Risk Assessments for certain larger developments.

6. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

6.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

6.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment		Yes		
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience			Yes	
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience			Yes	
Adaptation		Yes		

6.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Infrastructure resilience	<p>If development proceeds in areas at risk of flooding it may reduce the resilience of any infrastructure.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>
Community resilience	<p>Flooding can adversely impact community resilience</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>

6.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Scottish Flood Forum	The trauma of flooding will arouse feelings of anger, frustration and loss on all sides and this is a very natural response. Hostility may have built up within the community and towards external agencies and individuals within the community will have their own points of view and opinions.	Evidence of the negative impact of flooding on community resilience.

6.5. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.

Developers could be required to self-certify; however the team have encountered challenges with getting consultants to comply with a self-check process for drainage designs. It's also important to note that Planning already requires developers to submit Flood Risk Assessments for certain larger developments.

7. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

7.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets			Yes	
Footfall		Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre		Yes		
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety			Yes	
Town centre business			Yes	
Cultural heritage and identity		Yes		
Social and cultural aspects			Yes	

7.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Public safety	<p>If development is permitted without full consideration of flooding, it may result in flooding within town centres and the safety risks caused by flooding.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>
Social and cultural aspects	<p>If development is permitted without full consideration of flooding, it may result in flooding in town centres. This may lead to a negative impact on people's attitude and behaviours.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Town centre assets	<p>If development is permitted without full consideration of flooding, it may result in damage to town centre assets.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025 onwards</p>
Town centre business	<p>If development is permitted without full consideration of flooding, it may result in damage to business buildings and the consequential temporary closures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.</p> <p>Timescale April 2025</p>

7.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	N/A	Experience of urban flood events in Stonehaven	Knowledge of impacts.

7.4. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Salary costs for Planning consultations by the Flood Risk & Coast Protection team are funded by the Planning & Economy Service.

Developers could be required to self-certify; however the team have encountered challenges with getting consultants to comply with a self-check process for drainage designs. It's also important to note that Planning already requires developers to submit Flood Risk Assessments for certain larger developments.

8. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Consult with colleagues in the Planning Service	<p>Lead Officer Gavin Penman</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Tuesday April 01, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Sunday June 01, 2025</p> <p>Expected Outcome Agreement on level of consultation on flood risk and salary costs.</p> <p>Resource Implications Staff time</p>
Consult with SEPA regarding any potential changes to consultation	<p>Lead Officer Gavin Penman</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Tuesday April 01, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Wednesday April 30, 2025</p> <p>Expected Outcome SEPA informed of any potential changes.</p> <p>Resource Implications Staff time</p>