

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

FY25/26 Budget Saving Proposal: Catering: Increase to Primary School Meal Charge (February 2025)

Assessment ID	IIA-002764
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Approved By	Laurence Findlay
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1. Overview

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

Budget saving proposal FY25/26 to increase cost of primary school meals by 15% from £2.85 to £3.05 this will only impact those P6 & P7 pupils not eligible for a Free School Meal

During screening 1 of 11 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 0 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 3 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by laurence.findlay@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?	No
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?	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	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
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
Age (Younger)	<p>This only impacts pupils in Primary 6 & 7 as below this age group receive Universal Free School Meals (UFSM). For those in primary 6 and 7 an increase to the cost of a meal would have a negative impact as it may mean that the pupils cannot use the service as it becomes more expensive to parents. This will only affect P6 & 7 due to UFSM for Primary 1-5</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Aberdeenshire Council introduced a FSM Panel which considers referrals from schools and partner agencies. The Panel can approve discretionary FSM to pupils whose family income and/or other circumstances mean there are difficulties in providing for a meal at lunchtime</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Low income	<p>Those just above the threshold for FSM will be impacted by the increase to the school meal cost.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The Scottish Government has started the process of giving FSM to pupils in P6&7 that are in receipt of Scottish Child Payments this will help those just over the FSM criteria but those not in receipt of SCP will be impacted.</p> <p>Timescale March 25</p>
Low wealth	<p>Those just above the threshold for FSM will be impacted by the increase to the school meal cost.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation The Scottish Government has started the process of giving FSM to pupils in P6&7 that are in receipt of Scottish Child Payments this will help those just over the FSM criteria but those not in receipt of SCP will be impacted.</p> <p>Timescale March 25</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Historical Data on increase to prices	That there was a drop in uptake that took a significant time to recover our sales to previous levels with no increase during this time	We will see a reduction in sales over the coming years in the P6 & 7 cohort

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

There is a regular customer satisfaction survey with primary and secondary pupils and their parents. There has been no explicit engagement regarding the proposed increase to school meal prices.

4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

N/A

4.7. Evidence of engagement

N/A

4.8. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

As P6 and P7 children/parents who are eligible for Scottish Child Payments will soon be entitled to UFSM , this will mitigate a percentage of children/parents who are just over the threshold for statutory FSM. There are further mitigations available through the FSM Panel for those children/

parents whose family circumstances mean it is difficult to provide for a meal at lunchtime. It is recognised there will be some children/families for whom there will still be an impact through the increase in prices and parents may choose to not pay for school meals, or pay for school meals with an impact on household income. Parents/carers may choose to provide a packed lunch which may not be of the same nutritional standard as a school meal.

There will be an impact on a cohort of pupils, where parents/carers may choose to not pay for school meals, or pay for school meals with an impact on household income. However, the majority of primary school pupils will be unaffected, and there are discretionary arrangements in place through the FSM Panel for those parents/families experiencing financial or other hardships. Given the financial challenges facing the service and Council, it is appropriate to proceed with this budget saving proposal, although it must be acknowledged that there may be impacts on parental uptake and in turn on income generation.

4.9. Improving Relations

N/A

4.10. Opportunities of Equality

N/A

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Monitoring of school meals uptake in impacted P6 and P7 cohort and monitoring of income generation through primary school kitchens	<p>Lead Officer Ian Paterson</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Tuesday April 01, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Tuesday March 31, 2026</p> <p>Expected Outcome Data sets on impact of increase to school meal prices</p> <p>Resource Implications Limited</p>
Communications to headteachers and other services to advise of changes and to remind / highlight FSM Panel process	<p>Lead Officer Ian Paterson</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday March 10, 2025</p> <p>Planned Finish Tuesday April 01, 2025</p> <p>Expected Outcome Increased awareness and ability of staff to signpost support</p> <p>Resource Implications Limited</p>