

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### Budget Savings 25/26 Reduction in providing soft landscaping including Biodiversity in Parks and Open Spaces

Assessment ID	IIA-002621
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Approved By	Ewan Wallace
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# 1. Overview

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

Postponing soft landscaping activities including providing for Biodiversity across Aberdeenshire: B & B £8,000; Buchan £4,250; Formartine £18,500; Garioch £26,900; K & M £7,500; Marr £10,000

During screening 3 of 11 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
- Sustainability and Climate Change

In total there are 2 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 3 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by [ewan.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ewan.wallace@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?	Yes
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?	Yes
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	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
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. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable

### 4.4. Engagement with affected groups

None

### 4.5. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

not applicable

### 4.6. Evidence of engagement

not applicable

### 4.7. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Only those tasks that are essential will be carried out and all others will be postponed or rescheduled until resources allow

Department under instruction off essential spend only so all non essential task won't be taken forward.

#### **4.8. Improving Relations**

Service has largely good relation within communities and so essential spend message will be relayed to community and Friends groups to keep these groups informed

#### **4.9. Opportunities of Equality**

Not applicable

## 5. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

### 5.1. 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		

### 5.2. 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		

### 5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Consumption of energy	less vehicles and equipment means less emissions
Consumption of physical resources	less material and equipment used or bought means less resources required

### 5.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Quality of environment	<p>less soft landscaping means lower quality of landscape</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation leaving area to naturalise</p> <p>Timescale 6 months</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Quantity of environment	<p>less planting etc means fewer areas of biodiversity</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation less areas will reduce biodiversity throughout the shire</p> <p>Timescale 6 months</p>
Wildlife and biodiversity	<p>fewer areas for biodiversity means less areas for wildlife.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation less spend on biodiversity will impact on wildlife</p> <p>Timescale 6 month</p>

## 5.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Principal Landscape Officers within the Service	A Pause in carrying out soft landscaping including biodiversity could have a negative impact on the Council's Pollinator Action Plan	Potential difficulty in restarting Biodiversity programmes. Areas become aesthetically challenging

## 5.6. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Some areas can be discussed with Communities through the Place Programme and Community Action Planning although undertaking widescale Landscape soft landscaping by the General Public is unlikely and potentially unsafe to facilitate.

Potential pause for 12 months, could be re instated after this period, however the short term reputational damage in how the aesthetics of Towns and villages could be high due to areas resembling potential neglect.

## 6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Reduce Soft Landscaping in Parks and Open Spaces to include Biodiversity	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Alexander Scott</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Tuesday April 01, 2025</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Tuesday March 31, 2026</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> Negative outcome on Biodiversity activity. Risks involving the impending Legislation on Nature Recovery as well as the opportunity to link to Biodiversity Nett Gain.</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Reduced seed purchasing and horticultural activity across Aberdeenshire.</p>