

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### Housing Revenue Account - Cessation of Garden Maintenance Services to Aberdeenshire Council Tenants

Assessment ID	IIA-002740
Lead Author	Andrew Mackie
Additional Authors	Ryan Adam
Service Reviewers	Ryan Adam
Subject Matter Experts	Kakuen Mo, Jane Wilkinson, Ricki Lyon, Jade Fitzpatrick
Approved By	Ally Macleod
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# 1. Overview

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

An overview of the management and maintenance of tenant gardens within the Housing Revenue Account. Assessment to ascertain the impact on protected characteristics

During screening 2 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 2 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 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?	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?	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

## 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	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 (Older)	<p>The Council provides an Essential Garden Maintenance Service to those over 75 years of age and are medically unfit. This is on a full cost recovery basis. The service was provided to 157 tenancies in 2024. Withdrawal of the scheme will mean that 157 households will need to pursue other options to assist with garden maintenance.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Provision of advice to those currently benefiting from the provision of an Essential Garden Maintenance Service.</p> <p>Timescale 27th February to 31st March 2025</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Disability	<p>The Council provides an Essential Garden Maintenance Service to those over 75 years of age and are medically unfit. This is on a full cost recovery basis. The service was provided to 157 tenancies in 2024. Withdrawal of the scheme will mean that 157 households will need to pursue other options to assist with garden maintenance.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Tenants in receipt of the Essential Garden Maintenance Service will receive appropriate advice by the Housing &amp; Building Standards Service</p> <p>Timescale 27th February to 31st March 2025</p>

#### 4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Data held by the Housing & Building Standards Service - Essential Garden Maintenance usage	Housing & Building Standards currently delivered Essential Garden Maintenance Services for 157 homes. This equates to approximately 1% of the total Council stock. Services are delivered on a full cost recovery basis equating to £168.99 per annum for the 2024/25 year.	The demand for the Essential Garden Maintenance Services are limited. Tenants are able to identify alternative methods of maintaining gardens, either through friends and family or from the private sector.
Internal Data	Housing & Building Standards data	There has been no increase in the number of untidy gardens reported to the Housing & Building Standards Service in the 2024/25 year, despite the limited take up of the Essential Garden Maintenance Service.	Tenants are able to identify alternative means of maintaining their gardens.

#### 4.5. Engagement with affected groups

Extensive consultation has been undertaken with tenants via the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Consultation throughout 2023. This formed the basis for determining priorities set by tenants and services users.

#### 4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Housing & Building Standards employed the Council's Research and Survey supplier to design and implement methods to ensure those with protected characteristics were involved. Focus groups, surveys and other methods were used to engage. Tenant representatives were engaged at Member Officer Working Group level to ensure service user involvement in the decision making process.

## **4.7. Evidence of engagement**

The HRA Business Plan Review Member Officer Working Group oversaw the development of methodology designed to ensure the involvement of those with lived experience. Tenant representatives formed part of this Group designed to ensure that the priorities set were reported for consideration by the Communities Committee of the Council.

Committee considered the survey and research methodology in agreeing the criteria for HRA Business Plan Review workstreams.

## **4.8. Overall Outcome**

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

It is apparent that there is limited demand amongst tenants for the Essential Garden Maintenance Service. Alternative means of maintaining gardens include the use of family & friends or the use of private contractors.

The Housing & Building Standards Service will continue to provide guidance for those experiencing any difficulties maintaining their gardens with referral to other agencies or through the provision of Housing Options advice.

## **4.9. Improving Relations**

Housing & Building Standards will continue to engage with tenant representatives in the provision of services. It has a well developed approach to engagement with service users who are actively engaged in scrutiny activities.

## **4.10. Opportunities of Equality**

Tenants and service users have formed a central element of the HRA Business Plan Review, with action taken to ensure engagement with hard to reach groups. The priorities set appropriately reflect the views of tenants and service users in line with current good practice

## 5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Ongoing engagement with tenant representatives in respect of the maintenance of gardens	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Andrew Mackie</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Monday March 03, 2025</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Friday February 27, 2026</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> To establish tenant &amp; service user feedback on the cessation of services</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Current resources</p>
Monitor data associated with the number of untidy gardens reported	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Andrew Mackie</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Thursday February 27, 2025</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Friday February 27, 2026</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> To monitor trends in the number of untidy gardens reported and reasons</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Current resources</p>