

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Budget Saving Proposal - Winter Maintenance - Don't Fill Grit Bins

Assessment ID	IIA-002580
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1. Overview

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

We have approx 2000 grit bins that are operated and maintained by the service. A new criteria was established for any new grit bin applications which focused on a risk based approach and incorporated gradient in the criteria. This criteria has only ever been used for new applications. If the criteria was used on existing bins it would mean a reduction of 60% of bins needing filled each season. On average each bin is filled 3 times per season, which would result in an overall budget saving in the region of £380,000.00 if applying the risk based approach. The number of fills and total saving is dependant on the severity of winter.

During screening 5 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 3 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 4 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 0 have been mitigated and 4 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 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?	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?	Yes
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?	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	No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No 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>Reduction in available grit bins will limit the potential for self help in residential streets and pavements. This has the potential to have a disproportionate impact on elderly who would be more inclined to use pavements and may have more concerns regarding stability on slippery surfaces.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification Only grit bins meeting the criteria will be filled therefore there is no mitigation. The pavement would be treated in accordance with the Winter Plan, which would led to more prolonged period of snow/ice.</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Younger)	<p>Reduction in available grit bins will limit the potential for self help in residential streets and pavements. This has the potential to have a disproportionate impact on younger children who would be more inclined to use pavements.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification Only grit bins meeting the criteria will be filled therefore there is no mitigation. The pavement would be treated in accordance with the Winter Plan, which would led to more prolonged period of snow/ice.</p>
Disability	<p>Reduction in available grit bins will limit the potential for self help in residential streets and pavements. This has the potential to have a disproportionate impact on residents with disabilities who would be more inclined to use pavements and who may have more concerns related to movement across slippery surfaces</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification Only grit bins meeting the criteria will be filled therefore there is no mitigation. The pavement would be treated in accordance with the Winter Plan, which would led to more prolonged period of snow/ice.</p>

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Maintenance Records - CONFIRM	Number of grit bin requests during winter shows the quantity of requests for grit.	Grit is being used so its perceived a need for deicing at these locations.

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

None

4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

No

4.7. Evidence of engagement

n/a

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

No grit in the bins that don't meet the criteria

It carries a substantial cost to currently fill all existing 2000 grit bins.

In weather events it would be good to focus resource on bins that need filling the most ie ones

that meet the criteria rather than trying to fill approx 2000 grit bins.

4.9. Improving Relations

Pre and in season communications.

4.10. Opportunities of Equality

By using a risk based approach it means we can refill the bins in area that need it the most.

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
Quality of environment	Less deicing salt introduced into the environment.
Consumption of energy	Less deicing salt will be required as part of the grit mix for the bins.
Consumption of physical resources	Less materials, plant and labour required as their will be less bins to fill.

5.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Community resilience	<p>Footways and residential roads will be more prone to icing, which reduces the mobility of the community in adverse weather.</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification Only grit bins meeting the criteria will be filled therefore there is no mitigation.</p>

5.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Salt App	We can track our salt usage through our internal salt stock app.	We can measure the saving when we put this measure in place.

5.6. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

No grit in the bins that dont meet the criteria

To fill bins that don't meet the criteria is an expensive cost and resource.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>Communications required to explain the process that the criteria will be applied to existing grit bins which will result in them not being filled anymore before or during the season.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Tom O'Connor</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 Informed communities</p> <p>Resource Implications Within existing resources</p>