

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Increase of Council Tax in 2026/27 by 10%

Assessment ID	IIA-003381
Lead Author	Fiona Massie
Additional Authors	Gail Smith
Service Reviewers	Karlynn Watt
Subject Matter Experts	Kakuen Mo, Jane Wilkinson, Jade Fitzpatrick, Ricki Lyon, Annette Johnston
Approved By	Mary Beattie
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1. Overview

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

The Council's expenditure requirements reflect the needs of residents and the demand for Council services. Funding to meet these costs is drawn from a combination of Scottish Government Grant, Non-Domestic Rates and locally raised income. Locally raised income includes Council Tax and income from fees and charges.

For 2026/27, the Council Tax rate will increase by 10% across all bands. For a Band D property in Aberdeenshire, this equates to an increase of £153.28 per year, or approximately £15.33 per month where payment is made over ten instalments. Each 1% increase in Council Tax generates approximately £1.9 million in additional income for the Council.

During screening 5 of 12 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 8 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 11 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 12 have been mitigated and 0 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by mary.beattie@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?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
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
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on consumers of Council services?	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		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		Yes	
Area deprivation	Yes		Yes	
Socioeconomic background	Yes		Yes	

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.
Disability	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.
Area deprivation	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.
Low income	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.
Low wealth	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.

Impact Area	Impact
Material deprivation	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.
Socioeconomic background	The Council Tax increase supports the overall financial sustainability of the Council and contributes to the continuation of local services used by communities across Aberdeenshire. Additional revenue may help maintain funding for services that benefit a wide range of residents, including support for social care and community services. Existing mitigation measures, including Council Tax Reduction and wider financial support, help reduce the risk of disproportionate impact on low-income households.

4.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p>Age (Younger)</p>	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026-27</p>
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Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>
<p>Area deprivation</p>	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Low income	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>
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Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
<p>Low wealth</p>	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>
<p>Material deprivation</p>	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026-27</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Socioeconomic background	<p>The increase may place additional financial pressure on some households, particularly those on lower incomes or with fixed budgets.</p> <p>This financial pressure may have indirect effects on household wellbeing, including for families with children, although impacts are not specific to any protected group. Some residents may experience concern or dissatisfaction in relation to affordability, particularly in the context of wider cost-of-living pressures.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Some of the negative impacts on protected or Socio-economic groups can be reduced or offset by providing clear communication and accessible advice on the different welfare pathways that may be applicable to households. These include: Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to reduce liability for low-income households. Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) crisis and community care grants. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support households facing housing cost pressures and Advice, income maximisation and support from Tackling Poverty and Inequalities services.</p> <p>Timescale FY 2026/27</p>

4.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Financial Statement	The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget, and Council Tax forms part of the legally defined funding framework available to meet expenditure requirements. The assessment therefore relies on existing financial and legislative context.	No additional evidence was obtained. The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget, and Council Tax forms part of the legally defined funding framework available to meet expenditure requirements. The assessment therefore relies on existing financial and legislative context.

4.6. Information Gaps

All Council Tax-paying households in Aberdeenshire may be affected. Low-income households may be more sensitive to changes in Council Tax liability, although this is mitigated through existing Council Tax reduction and other available benefits.

4.7. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
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Measure	Timescale
All Council Tax-paying households in Aberdeenshire may be affected. Low-income households may be more sensitive to changes in Council Tax liability, although this is mitigated through existing Council Tax reduction and other available benefits.	FY 2026/27

4.8. Engagement with affected groups

No specific engagement has been undertaken. The proposal forms part of the annual budget-setting process and has been informed by existing evidence and established mitigation measures.

4.9. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

No specific engagement has been undertaken. The proposal forms part of the annual budget-setting process and has been informed by existing evidence and established mitigation measures.

4.10. Evidence of engagement

No specific engagement has been undertaken. The proposal forms part of the annual budget-setting process and has been informed by existing evidence and established mitigation measures.

4.11. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

This conclusion was reached by considering the proposal as a general increase applied to all Council Tax-paying households. It was recognised that households on lower incomes have less financial flexibility and are therefore more affected by increases in fixed household costs. The assessment acknowledges the existence of mitigation and support arrangements; however, these were not treated as eliminating the impact. Taking this into account, the impact was assessed as financial, indirect, and unevenly felt, but proportionate to the purpose of the decision as part of the annual budget-setting process.

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4.12. Improving Relations

The Council Tax increase may give rise to differing views across communities and income groups. Clear and transparent communication about the decision-making process and the reasons for the increase can help support understanding, even where there is disagreement.

4.13. Opportunities of Equality

The policy does not directly advance equality of opportunity. Any contribution is indirect, through the use of additional revenue to support the continuation of Council services and through existing mitigation measures that reduce Council Tax liability for low-income households. These measures do not remove the impact of the increase, but they help ensure that support is available to those most affected.

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>Impacts will be monitored through existing budget monitoring and support services, including Council Tax Reduction and Tackling Poverty and Inequalities service. No additional action is proposed.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Karlyn Watt</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Wednesday April 01, 2026</p> <p>Planned Finish Sunday January 31, 2027</p> <p>Expected Outcome Impacts will be monitored through existing budget monitoring and support services, including Council Tax Reduction and Tackling Poverty and Inequalities service.</p> <p>Resource Implications To be delivered within existing resources</p>