

Initial Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Section 1 - The Policy	
Policy title	Biodiversity & Countryside Access
Implementation date	1/4/24
<p>Please provide an overview of the policy including the key aims and expected outcomes:</p> <p>The Biodiversity and Countryside Access “doing budget” of circa £4,000 has been used in the past for some biodiversity enhancing projects such as the corncrake schemes and in relation to access has been used to resolve access issues raised under the Land Reform legislation, where the local authority has a statutory duty to resolve genuine cases brought.</p>	
<p>Detail the budget implication relating to the policy:</p> <p>The implication would be the removal of the only budget available for the functions of biodiversity and countryside access, over the longer term this would impact upon the Comhairle’s ability to effectively deliver a service.</p>	
<p>What will change as a result of this policy?</p> <p>There will be no resource available to carry out small (but significant) interventions, for example to resolve a locked gate access issue or engage in some biodiversity awareness schemes as we have done in the past with RSPB and crofting townships.</p>	
<p>Indicate which groups of people will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy?</p> <p>Those exercising their access rights, groups seeking assistance with biodiversity projects such as the corncrake project mentioned previously.</p>	
Responsible Persons	
Department / Section	Economic Development
Lead Officer	Kareen MacRury / Murdo Mackay
IIA Team Members	
Responsible Head of Service	Calum Iain Maciver
Section 2 - Evidence	
<p>What data and information has been reviewed as part of the policy development process?</p> <p>Historical use of the funds.</p>	
<p>Detail what consultation has taken place as part of the policy development process?</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>What does the information collected and the outcome of any consultation indicate regarding potential impacts of the policy?</p> <p>N/A</p>	



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Are there any gaps in knowledge? If further evidence or consultation required as part of the policy development process please detail:
None

Section 3 - Initial Integrated Impact Assessment

Impact Overview	Yes	No
Is the policy strategic?		✓
Will individuals have access to, or be denied access to a service or function as a result of the policy or the changes being proposed to services or functions?		✓
Will the implementation of the policy, or the changes to the policy, result in individuals being employed, a change in staffing levels, or a change in terms and conditions, employer or location, either directly or indirectly?		✓
Is there a change in the size of a budget?	✓	
Will a service be withdrawn, changed or expanded?	✓	
Will the policy have consequences for or affect people?		✓
Does the policy have the potential to have an impact on equality even when this only affects a relatively small number of people?		✓
Does the policy have the potential to have an impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes?		✓
Is the policy likely to have a significant environmental impact?		✓

Comments

The removal of £4k from the Biodiversity and Countryside budget will impact on the ability to provide funding to groups for repairs or promotional work.

Section 3 – - Initial Integrated Impact Assessment Continued

Which groups of people will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy?	Yes	No	Comments
age	✓		If access denied the elderly can be adversely affected. Elderly who are exercising their access rights are more likely to be hampered by the removal of a stile or gate as they cannot sometimes climb a fence or take an alternative route. The Local Authority (LA) can enforce Access rights and install infrastructure at its own costs then recover that from the landlord/land manager as required. It has not happened often, twice in the last 15



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			years and both times costs could not be recovered, for a variety of reasons.
disability	√		Disabled access could possibly be affected. Disabled access would be impacted in the same way as detailed above.
sex		√	
gender reassignment		√	
marriage and civil partnership		√	
pregnancy and maternity		√	
race		√	
religion or belief		√	
sexual orientation		√	
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will or may impact on socio-economic inequalities?	Yes	No	Comments
Socio-economic Disadvantage		√	
Low Income/Income Poverty		√	
Low and/or no wealth	√		
Material Deprivation		√	
Area Deprivation		√	
Socioeconomic Background		√	
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will or may affect individuals Human Rights?	Yes	No	Comments
Human Rights			
Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will have wider impacts as outlined below?	Yes	No	Comments
Health and Wellbeing	√		Access to paths important to health and well being.
Economic and Social Sustainability		√	
Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Management		√	
The Gaelic Language		√	
Island Proofing		√	
Is there the potential for cumulative impact?		√	
Section 4 - Decision			
Based on the initial Integrated Impact Assessment is a full IIA required?			



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Yes

Full IIA Lead Officer: _____

Estimated completion date: _____

No

If an IIA is deemed not to be required please detail the decision rational below:

The impacts are fully understood and limited, efforts will be made to mitigate where possible, such as working with Community Land owning interests to address access and biodiversity issues.

Section 5 – Lead Officer and authorising Director

Lead Officer (print name)	Murdo Mackay
Designation	Development Manager Communities
Date	16/2/24
Print name of Head of Service or Director responsible for the policy	Calum Iain Maciver
Date	16/2/24

