

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability



smaller settlements. In addition third sector members of the community planning partnership have also agreed to make land available land for community growing.

3. Do I need to undertake a Combined Impact Assessment?

High Relevance	Yes/no
The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people	Yes
The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality	Yes
The policy/ proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	No
The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact	Yes
Low Relevance	
The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	No
The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	Yes
The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	No
If you have identified low relevance please give a brief description of your reasoning here and send it to your Head of Service to record.	

If you have answered yes to high relevance above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment.

4. What information/data/ consultation have you used to inform the policy to

Evidence	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	Data on populations in need for Midlothian is contained within the Midlothian Profile <u>2018</u> which is available on the Council website. This identifies significant population growth from new housing, resulting in a growth in families with children under 16 and an increase in the older population. The profile also indicates that there has been a rise in child poverty to above the Scottish national average. The data also shows that the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Midlothian (5.2 per 100 practice patients) is

Service user experience information	<p>GTM feedback, Midlothian Peoples Equalities Group (MPEG) commented on the stigma that exists around accessing food banks. It was noted that certain community organisations are well placed to distribute food e.g. Gorebridge Parish Church); the Beacon and the Community Fridge that they have. It was also noted that access to fresh food ingredients is not necessarily addressing food poverty where people lack the knowledge, skills and/or the equipment needed to turn ingredients into a meal. Feedback was that the document was very lengthy and not very user friendly/ accessible. Some members felt that a condensed version or an easy read version would be helpful particularly for those with learning difficulties. In response the writing group will ensure a shorter easier to read summary will be produced. Costs listed within the strategy (e.g. £45 half plot/ £90 full plot) – the group felt that this is still a lot of money for someone who is not working and may exclude some people. It was highlighted that a lot of older people with mobility issues may have valuable knowledge and skills but are unable to do the physical work. It was also suggested that some of the retirement living complexes might have green space which could be utilised if not already. It was suggested that some people may have garden space/ tools they would be willing to let out or have an agreement that someone can utilise the garden for food growing in exchange for a share of the produce it was also suggested that donations of garden tools and cooking tools could be asked for from community members/ groups.</p> <p>One of the members has had positive experience at Mayfield with the MAEDT raised beds and opportunities to take home produce.</p> <p>GTM feedback has been a broad welcome for creation of the strategy.</p>
Consultation and involvement findings	A stakeholder consultation list amounting to over 35 organisations including all members of the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers) • Refugees and asylum seekers • People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief) • Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people • People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership 	<p>Allotments and Community growing spaces have potential to include minority communities. This could help these communities integrate with existing communities.</p> <p>As above and it is anticipated will have a positive effect on health and well-being.</p> <p>Anticipated positive effect on health and well-being</p> <p>Anticipated positive effect on health and well-being</p>
<p>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • People on benefits • Single Parents and vulnerable families • Pensioners • Looked after children • Those leaving care settings (including children and young people and those with illness) • Homeless people • Carers (including young carers) • Those involved in the criminal justice system • Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas) • People misusing services • People with low literacy/numeracy • Others e.g. veterans, students 	<p>It is disputable whether food poverty is alleviated by allotments where food banks are accessible.</p> <p>Community food growing does however offer people in food poverty access to fresh food – depending on the aims, objectives and outputs of the organising group.</p> <p>Midlothian People's Equalities Group (MPEG) commented on the stigma that exists around accessing food banks. It was noted that certain community organisations are well placed to distribute food e.g. Gorebridge Parish Church providing cheap lunch (50p per course); the Beacon and the Community Fridge that they have.</p>

	<p>raised beds and opportunities to take home produce.</p>
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi-rural communities • Urban Communities • Coastal communities 	<p>Urban - Allotments</p> <p>The council has no funds to develop allotments due to the high cost. The strategy therefore highlights the fact that allotments will be provided as a consequence of large scale housing development. Consequently, The provision of allotments is embedded in the Midlothian Local Development Plan. Allotments cannot be located specifically within areas of social deprivation largely due to land suitability and lack of housing development. The location of new allotments across Midlothian will, however, make them more accessible to people with socio-economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Rural Allotments</p> <p>Allotments are not a priority for rural communities where garden ground has traditionally been more available than in urban settlements. Moreover, there is insufficient rural development of the required scale to provide allotments.</p> <p>Urban – Community Growing Spaces</p> <p>Community growing spaces in urban areas have been identified. Each settlement has been allocated at least two potential council-owned spaces. In addition, the Community Planning Partners will be identifying ground for community food growing.</p> <p>Rural & Semi-Rural Community Growing Spaces</p>

If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

Construction of allotments may be undertaken by contractors. Council procurement and community benefit clauses will be used to enhance positive benefits.

The delivery of community growing activity is generally undertaken by external third sector groups, who are expected by funders to have their own equalities policies and to show how their projects will be inclusive of equalities groups.

8. Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?

Yes. Strategy will be reviewed by corporate communications to ensure the web version meets equalities accessibility standards and an easy read version will be published. Translated versions will be made available on request

9. Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?

Objectives	Comments
Equality and Human rights	
Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services, status	The creation of allotments and support for community growing spaces is intended to widen access to growing and healthy food consumption with mental and physical health benefits
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	Community growing and allotments have been shown in research to increase community wellbeing and social cohesion.
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self control over decisions	See above
Builds family support networks, resilience and community capacity	Growing Together Midlothian and Midlothian Food Alliance networks support community capacity for self-help and collective organisation

Helps people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	
Improving literacy and numeracy	
Improves working conditions, including equal pay	
Improves local employment opportunities	

**10. Is the policy a qualifying Policy, Programme or Strategy as defined by
The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005?**

There no requirement to undertake a Strategy Environmental Assessment since the outputs from the strategy will have no significant strategic effects and has been screened accordingly.

11. Action Plan

Identified negative impact	Mitigating circumstances	Mitigating actions	Timeline	Responsible person
None	N/A	None	5 Years to Review	James Kinch

12. Sign off by Director of Place,

Name


James Kinch

Date

17 Feb 2020