

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability

Title of Policy/ Proposal	Town Centre Capital Fund 2019/20 Projects
Completion Date	17 September 2019
Completed by	Ann Marie Macaskill
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Type of Initiative:

Policy/Strategy ☐

Programme/Plan ☒

Project ☒

Service ☐

Function ☐

Other Statement of Intent.....

New or Proposed ☒

Changing/Updated ☐

Review or existing ☐

1. Briefly describe the policy/proposal you are assessing.

Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the policy being developed or reviewed (e.g. objectives, aims) including the context within which it will operate.

Midlothian Council received an allocation of £910k from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund. In order to commit expenditure fairly across the region, a report was presented in May 2019 which set out a proposed promotion and application process for communities, businesses, the third sector and local authorities. This was co-ordinated by the Economic Development service and a panel comprising representatives from Planning, Estates, Employability, the third sector and business reviewed expressions of interest and full applications.

This approach was to maximise awareness of the town centre funds in Midlothian, and to ensure a fair, transparent and effective process to securing economic outcomes brought by Midlothian's funding allocation.

2. What will change as a result of this policy?

The process for application and monitoring of delivery against objectives sits within Economic Development and is supported by the panel.

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	No
The policy/ proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	Yes
The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact	No
Low Relevance	

The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	Yes
The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	No
The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	Yes
<p>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.</p> <p>The Midlothian Town Centre Capital Fund process is to ensure Midlothian draws down its share of Scottish Government funds. By advertising openly to Midlothian communities, third sector, businesses and the Council, it has been possible to engage inclusively to stimulate and support place based economic investments which encourage town centres to diversify and flourish, creating footfall through local improvements and partnerships.</p> <p>This will boost the Midlothian town centre and place based economy, and add leverage to existing projects. Whilst there will be consequential equalities and environmental benefits, these are secondary, although notable.</p>	

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 date?

Evidence	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	The process was opened to the whole of the local authority area and a robust communications strategy was developed by the Council's communications team.
Data on service uptake/access	A communications strategy advertised the fund. A total of 28 expressions of interest were received with 16 being recommended for fuller applications. This report outlines projects that are deemed a suitable fit with local and national priorities, and are deliverable within the tight timescale. Projects which were unsuccessful were deemed not optimal in aligning with people and place economic issues and securing outcomes.
Data on quality/outcomes	Outcomes in town centres can be enhanced through delivery of funding.
Research/literature evidence	Single Midlothian Plan, Midlothian Neighbourhood Plans, and direction of national economic policy in 2015 and 2017 through Scottish Government review of economic strategy, and enterprise/skills.
Service user experience information	There is no definitive service user feedback.
Consultation and involvement findings	Consultation and promotion was undertaken as part of the communications strategy.

Good practice guidelines	<p>Application guidance (appended) was developed by the Council's Economic Development Service which integrated the aims and objectives of the Town Centre Fund into a template which has been successfully used previously for the Council's Large Grant Scheme.</p> <p>All applicants were offered officer support for guidance and further development of expressions of interest to application stage.</p>
Other (please specify)	N/A
Is any further information required? How will you gather this?	No

5. How does the policy meet the different needs of and impact on groups in the community?

	Comments – positive/negative impact
<p>Equality Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people, people in the middle years, • Young people and children • Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity) • Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems) • Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers) • Refugees and asylum seekers 	<p>Economic policy and practice will aim to encourage all those who seek to be economically active and those in communities, to varying degrees, all of these groups could derive positive benefit.</p> <p>Projects recommended for approval harness the demographic of: children and young people, disabled people (through upgraded amenities), minority ethnic people (through integrated community facilities), and those with religions and beliefs.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>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>Economic policy and practice will work with Economic Development through project development to support communities, businesses and individuals to increase opportunities and provision of services.</p>
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi rural communities • Urban Communities • Coastal communities 	<p>Through draw down of the funds, the Economic Development Service and panel will work with all communities in a positive way to secure better economic outcomes (coastal N/A).</p>

6. Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?

In addition to the funding, applicants will be offered assistance where applicable from economic development colleagues and provision of exit strategy and business continuity.

7. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

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

Capital projects have requirement to tender for works. Once approved, grant award letters will mirror the Council's Large Grant Scheme procedures for transparent procurement tenders and process and ensure compliance with audit.

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?

The communications strategy and subsequent dialogue with applicants did not identify this. Provision within the Economic Development Service would be made to support any applicant or subsequent contractor in understanding and communicating information.

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	Positive: promotes equality of opportunity in terms of access to funding.
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	Neutral
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self-control over decisions	Positive: promotes participation in terms of access to funding, thereby providing greater autonomy in deciding the future of projects.

Builds family support networks, resilience and community capacity	Neutral
Reduces crime and fear of crime	Neutral
Promotes healthier lifestyles including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diet and nutrition, • sexual health, • substance misuse • Exercise and physical activity. • Lifeskills 	Positive: through development of facilities for communities in the town centre, research suggests people tend to have greater levels of self-worth and generally healthier lifestyles.
Environmental	
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in East Lothian (including carbon management)	<p>The projects align with national economic development strategy, policy and practice can promote and achieve greater levels of 'green' business practices, recognise the impact of climate change, manage waste more effectively, reduce pollution levels, manage resources, and improvements to promote greater environmental quality and sense of place, particularly in town centres.</p>
Plan for future climate change	
Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	
Protect coastal and inland waters	
Enhance biodiversity	
Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals)	
Public Safety: Minimise waste generation/ infection control/ accidental injury /fire risk	
Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms or transport	
Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	
Economic	

Maximises income and /or reduces income inequality	Positive direct effect through policy and practice.
Helps young people into positive destinations	Neutral
Supports local business	Positive indirect effect through improved facilities/ footfall.
Helps people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	Positive direct effect through policy and practice.
Improving literacy and numeracy	Neutral
Improves working conditions, including equal pay	Neutral
Improves local employment opportunities	Positive direct effect through policy and practice.

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

No

11. Action Plan

Identified negative impact	Mitigating circumstances	Mitigating actions	Timeline	Responsible person
N/A				

12. Sign off by Head of Service/ NHS Project Lead

Name
Date