

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of statutory legislation, such as the Equality Act 2010. It consists of 10 main sections as outlined below:

- Section 1 - Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Section 2 - Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards
- Section 3 - Socio-economic Duty
- Section 4 - Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way
- Section 5 - Data
- Section 6 - Consultation
- Section 7 - Decision

Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department	Date
Service Manager Revenues & Charging Assessments	Chief Officer Resources	Resources, Corporate Services	16/09/22

Briefly outline the proposal indicating what change or decision is to be made, also provide any documentation that may be used to support this. **What is the proposal that needs to be assessed?**

Introduction of a Discretionary Cost of Living Scheme - The scheme is intended to provide support as Wales recovers from the pandemic and support households to deal with the impact of increasing energy and other costs.

The scheme proposes: -

- Payments of £150 to eligible households – eligibility criteria, applicants cannot have received a payment under the main Cost of Living Scheme
- Payment of £100 to households where households were receiving free school meal payments in August 2022 (this is likely to be an additional payment to households who would have received a payment from the Main scheme or who would be eligible for the £150 payment from the Discretionary Scheme)
- Grant of £100,000 to BG Food Bank to provide support to individuals & families in BG.
- Grant of £50,000 to BG Citizens Advice Bureau to provide additional resources to support to individuals & families with financial / debt advice.

Options are 1) to agree the proposed scheme or 2) suggest amendments to the scheme

Section 1 – Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

Briefly outline below if there will be any positive or negative impacts, on any groups of people with protected characteristics, who are covered by the Equality Act 2010, as a result of the proposal being considered.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Age <i>(people of all ages)</i>	Eligible adult households (both individuals & families) within BG will be entitled to a direct payment. All households will be eligible to access support from the Food Bank & CAB		
Disability <i>(people with disabilities/ long term conditions)</i>	People with disabilities and those with none will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food		

	Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		
Gender Reassignment <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>	All BG households regardless of gender will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Marriage or Civil Partnership <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	All BG households (regardless of whether or not they are) in a marriage and / or Civil Partnership will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		
Pregnancy and Maternity <i>(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)</i>	Women who are pregnant and / or on maternity leave will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		
Race <i>(people from black, Asian and minority)</i>	People of all racial backgrounds will be eligible for the direct		

<i>ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds)</i>	payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		
Religion or Belief <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	All BG households regardless of religion and belief will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		
Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristics?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
Sex <i>(women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender)</i>	All BG households regardless of sexual orientation will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau		

<p>Sexual Orientation <i>(lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other)</i></p>	<p>All BG households regardless of sexual orientation will be eligible for the direct payments & to access support from the Food Bank and Citizens Advice Bureau</p>		
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Section 2 - Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the [Welsh Language Standards](#) require the Council to have 'due regard' for any positive or negative impacts that proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language.

Requirements	Does the proposal have any positive, negative, or neutral impacts with regards to the below?	What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts?	Please demonstrate any evidence used to form this opinion.
Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. <i>For example, Standards 88 - 93 – policy development and review of existing policies)</i>	Neutral impact		
What opportunities are there to promote the Welsh Language? <i>For example, status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i>	Positive Impact - Policy & registration / application forms will be available in Welsh & English		
What opportunities are there for a person to use the Welsh Language? <i>For example, staff, residents and visitors</i>	Positive Impact - Policy & registration / application forms will be available in Welsh & English		
Is the Welsh language being treated no less favourably than the English language?	YES		

Section 3 - Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only – Please refer to our Corporate Reporting Guidance)

Welsh Government's [Socio-economic Duty](#) provides a framework to ensure tackling inequality of outcome is at the forefront of decision making.

Please consider how your proposal could affect the following groups:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system
- People misusing substances

Socio Economic Disadvantages	Will the proposal have a positive, negative, or neutral impact?	How could you mitigate the negative impacts outlined?	Please highlight any evidence that has been considered (quantitative or qualitative)
<p>Low Income / Income Poverty (<i>cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.</i>)</p>	<p>Positive: All eligible households in BG will receive a payment to help with cost of living pressures</p> <p>Financial contributions will also be made to the BG Food Bank and CAB to support residents of Blaenau Gwent</p>		
<p>Low and/or No Wealth (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)</p>	<p>See above</p>		
<p>Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e., financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>	<p>See above</p>		
<p>Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p>		
<p>Socio-economic Background (<i>social class i.e., parents' education, employment and income</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral impact</p>		

<p>Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	Neutral		

Section 4 – Children’s Rights Approach - [The Right Way](#)

The Children’s Rights Approach – The Right Way is a framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It places the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrates children’s rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. The Right Way focuses on three main them Participation, Provision and Protection.

Protected characteristics	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on the Children’s Rights Approach?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
<p>Participation (child or young person as someone who actively contributes to society as a citizen)</p>	No	No	

Provision (the basic rights of children and young people to survive and develop)	Yes – families with children entitled to free school meals will be eligible for an additional payment		
Protection (children and young people are protected against exploitation, abuse or discrimination)	No	No	

Section 5– Community Safety

Duty to Consider Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence.

Impacts	Will the proposal have any positive impacts on children & people's	Will the proposal have any negative impacts on children & people's participation, provision or protection?	Outline how the proposal could maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impact. Please indicate any views evidence you have that supports this.
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	participation, provision or protection?		
Crime (consider impact on each: victims, offenders and neighbourhoods)	No	No	
Anti-Social Behaviour and behaviour adversely affecting the local environment (consider impact on each: victims, offenders, neighbourhoods and green spaces)	No	No	
Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances (Think vulnerable children, adults, families and communities)	No	All eligible households in BG will receive a payment to help with cost of living pressures however individuals could use this money to fund drugs, alcohol & other substances	
Re-offending (Think young people and adults, victims, families, communities)	No	No	

Serious Violence (Think vulnerable young people, vulnerable adults, victims, families, communities)	No	No	
Counter Terrorism (People and places that are vulnerable to terrorism or violent extremism)	No	No	
Community Cohesion (Asylum seekers, Migrants, Victims or Hate Crime, Community tensions)	No	No	

Section 6 - Data

Please outline any data or evidence that has been used to develop the proposal. For example, this can be previous consultations, national/regional/local data, pilot projects, reports, feedback from clients etc.

What data/evidence was used? - provide any links.	What were the key findings?	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
<p>WG Cost of Living Scheme</p> <p>WG Grant terms & conditions to implement Discretionary Cost of Living Scheme</p> <p>Economic data relating to inflation increases, fuel and energy cost.</p> <p>Data re free school meals eligibility</p> <p>CAB performance data</p>	<p>Eligibility criteria for Cost of Living Main scheme</p> <p>Funding has been made available to deliver Discretionary Cost of Living Scheme</p> <p>WG have requested scheme to be established asap to provide financial assistance to households in BG</p> <p>Approx 1800 families eligible for free school meals</p> <p>CAB caseload relating to BG residents is significantly increasing and additional support required</p>	<p>Identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> households not eligible under main scheme households eligible but not claimed under main scheme vulnerable families / households (via eligibility for free schools meals) <p>Highlighted increasing support being sought by BG households via CAB for finance / debt advice</p>

Are there any data or information gaps and if so what are they and how do you intend to address them?

Section 7 - Consultation.

Using the questions below please provide details of any planned consultations or consultations that have been undertaken to support the proposal, referring to the Gunning Principles as appropriate:

Principle 1: Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage. You must not have already made up your mind.

Principle 2: Sufficient reasons must be put forward to allow for intelligent consideration and response. Have people been given the information and opportunity to influence?

Principle 3: Adequate time must be given for consideration and response. Is the consultation long enough bearing in mind the circumstances?

Principle 4: The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision

Please consider the following questions:

1. Who did you consult?

CLT, Leader of the Council, CAB provided information on increased uptake of their services by people in Blaenau Gwent.

2. When did the consultation take place and was adequate time given for a response?

September 2022

3. Was there enough information provided to respond effectively?

4. What were the findings?

5. Have the findings been considered with regards to the decision?

Section 8 - Decision

Using the information you have gathered from sections 1-9 please state in the table below whether you are able to proceed with the proposal.

Continue with the proposal in its current form

Yes

No

Continue with proposal but take into account reasonable steps to mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal

Yes

No

Please contact Policy & Partnerships should you require any further advice or guidance on completing your assessment via lissa.friel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or emma.scherptong@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.