

Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

1. Title of proposal

Cumulative Integrated Impact Assessment (CIIA) on the officer budget proposals for financial year 2026/27.

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

The proposals aim to provide efficiencies and savings and allow the Council to continue to meet its statutory responsibilities, thereby maximising the level of investment available for priority services

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

No further specific consultation has taken place on the budget proposals this year. The Council approved [substantial consultation and engagement evidence](#) on 20 February 2025 to inform both budget proposals. Key evidence from that report as follows:

- The Council Tax proposal respondents favoured the lowest percent increase option on the consultation (an increase of no more than 5% on Council Tax). The 2026/27 council tax proposal is based on a rise of 5% to protect the Council's ongoing financial sustainability.
- The Balance of Care proposal had 70% of respondents support or strongly support the proposal, showing that there is support for our 'Edinburgh is My Home' strategy. The 2026/27 residential and out-of-area placements budget proposal builds on this.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

The overall Revenue Budget Framework is considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty, insofar as individual budget proposals may be found to have a cumulative socio-economic impact. Socio-economic impacts are considered in each individual budget IIA.

5. Date of IIA

29 January 2026

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Ruth Baxendale	Senior Policy and Insight Officer	IIA trainer
Lucy Pearson	Lead Officer - Equalities	
Fraser Rowson	Principal Accountant	
Nichola Dadds	Operations Manager	

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data		N/A for cumulative IIA. The purpose of the cumulative IIA is to consider whether any impacts arise as a result of the cumulative effect of smaller impacts identified within individual IIAs. These individual IIAs have considered the appropriate evidence in relation to the corresponding budget proposal.
Data on service uptake/access		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Data on equality outcomes		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Research/literature evidence		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Public/patient/client experience information		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Evidence of unmet need		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Good practice guidelines		The Council's Consultation Framework
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Environmental data		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Risk from cumulative impacts		Information on the impacts identified for each proposal provided by respective budget proposal lead officers has been used to undertake this cumulative impact assessment.
Other (please specify)		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA
Additional evidence required		As above - N/A for cumulative IIA

All evidence and data relevant to specific budget proposals are listed in the corresponding IIAs. The two budget proposal IIAs received were used as the basis for this CIIA. All IIAs and statements for 2025/26 can be accessed on the Council [website](#).

- **Council Tax Increase**- a proposed increase of Council Tax in 2026/27 by 5%; and
- **Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children’s Services** – this includes increasing the capacity within the Council’s fostering service, reducing the number of young people in external agency foster care placements, and reducing the number of young people in expensive out of authority residential placements.

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children’s Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The Council proposals seek to ensure as far as possible that all citizens can positively benefit from change proposals. This is based on the premise that change can mean different provision rather than less provision and that reconfiguring services is one way in which the Council can see to protect front line capacity.</p>	
<p>Council Tax Increase</p> <p>Council Tax income has facilitated on-going investment in income maximisation services and homelessness prevention services, both of which are likely to benefit those in, or at risk of falling into, poverty.</p>	<p>Those facing poverty, homelessness but in particular women, carers, and those from ethnic minority groups</p>
<p>Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children’s Services</p> <p>Children and young people will feel they belong in Edinburgh and that they are being supported to live their best life and reach their ambition in a rights respected way as we build on strength and capacity so that children and their families will feel connected and get the right support at the right time.</p>	<p>Children, Young People and families who are receiving a social work service</p> <p>Children affected by disabilities, their families</p>

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children’s Rights	Affected populations
	<p>and carers (in particular women)</p> <p>Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children</p> <p>Vulnerable families, children at risk of statutory measures</p>
<p>Negative Specific groups where a potential cumulative negative impact was identified include: groups vulnerable to poverty, disabled people, women, children and young people.</p>	
<p>Council Tax Increase</p> <p>There is the negative impact of the reduction in household income. This does, however, need to be seen in the context of the comparatively small impact on overall household income, available support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and wider income maximisation activity, and other mitigations outlined in the Council Tax IIA.</p> <p>The additional income raised furthermore increases the Council’s ability to maintain, or supplement, targeted prevention support to those in greatest relative need.</p>	<p>All groups but includes those on lower or fixed incomes, particularly those with more than one protected characteristic and thus more vulnerable to intersectional impact. There is also likely to be a disproportionately negative effect on women and lower income families.</p>
<p>Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children’s Services</p> <p>If we don’t ensure the right supports are in place to safely return children and young people with more complex needs this might lead to a breakdown and more disruption for the children and their families.</p> <p>Mitigating Actions – The Integrated Connections Team work collaboratively to support children, young people and families to stay together where possible offering holistic assessments,</p>	<p>Children, Young People and families who are receiving a social work service</p> <p>Children affected by disabilities, their families and carers</p>

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>tailored support plans and intensive interventions designed to meet the individual needs of each family.</p> <p>Increased investment in the development of parental engagement and participation and development of the parent panel, Whole Family Wellbeing parent panel and the work of the Sparrow project which aims to support parents and carers to influence change within statutory social work systems. A participation oversight group is in place to ensure there is a framework for the voices of children, young people, parents and carers to be heard and embedded within systems.</p>	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Positive climate impacts were identified. This will have a positive impact on the groups who are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change, which include, older people, children and young people, babies, people with respiratory conditions, low income and ethnic minority groups</p>	<p>Groups who are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change, which include, older people, children and young people, babies, people with respiratory conditions, low income and ethnic minority groups</p>
<p>Council Tax Increase</p> <p>Additional income raised from the increase can, subject to member decision, be used to supplement existing investment contributing positively to the Council's emissions reductions activity as well as wider environmental initiatives.</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children's Services</p> <p>Reduction in carbon emissions by keeping young people at home in their own city and communities, reduces travel to and from school placements and for practitioner visits.</p>	<p>As above</p>

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
Negative None	

Economic	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Specific groups where a positive impact was identified are: children and young people, including disabled and asylum seeking children, families and carers (in particular women) and vulnerable families.</p>	<p>Specific groups where a positive impact was identified are: children and young people, including disabled and asylum seeking children, families and carers (in particular women) and vulnerable families.</p>
<p>Council Tax Increase</p> <p>The additional income raised from Council Tax increases the Council's ability to maintain, or supplement, targeted prevention support to those in greatest relative need by protecting front-line services.</p> <p>This should contribute positively to spend and employment in the local economy, with consequent multiplier effects.</p>	<p>Groups at higher risk of poverty, most notably ethnic minority groups, women, those with children and disabled.</p>
<p>Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children's Services</p> <p>Provides more consistency and support for families, children and young people living in their own communities, going to their local schools enabling them to be supported with transitions to achieve positive destinations in their own city post education.</p>	<p>Children, Young People and families who are receiving a social work service</p> <p>Children affected by disabilities, their families and carers</p> <p>Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children</p> <p>Vulnerable families, children at risk of statutory measures</p>

Economic	Affected populations
<p>Negative</p> <p>Specific groups where a potential cumulative negative impact was identified include: groups vulnerable to poverty, disabled people, women, children and young people.</p>	
<p>Council Tax Increase</p> <p>Reduction in household income.</p> <p>This does, however, need to be seen in the context of the comparatively small impact on overall household income, available support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and wider income maximisation activity and mitigations outlined in the Council Tax IIA.</p> <p>Combined with other rising costs of living, such as food, fuel, rent and transport, any increase could result in further pressure on limited incomes, making essential items less affordable.</p>	<p>Those on lower or fixed incomes, particularly those with more than one protected characteristic and thus more vulnerable to intersectional discrimination.</p> <p>This is more likely to affect those groups at higher risk of poverty, most notably ethnic minority groups, women, those with children and disabled.</p>
<p>Review Balance of Care and reduce external provision within Children’s Services</p> <p>The housing crisis in Edinburgh may impact families living in properties that don’t meet their needs resulting in a financial strain.</p> <p>Mitigating Actions – additional housing officers to support young people who are moving to independent living.</p> <p>Working with colleagues in Place to address needs of families who are unable to support children to return or remain at home due to housing constraints.</p>	<p>Children, Young People and families who are receiving a social work service</p> <p>Children affected by disabilities, their families and carers</p> <p>Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children</p> <p>Vulnerable families, children at risk of statutory measures</p>

9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so, how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

As part of the Council’s terms and conditions of contract, any external contractors will be required to comply with equal opportunities and the public sector equality duty; and must assist the Council in achieving its sustainability commitments by taking account of the Council’s Sustainable Procurement Policy.

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

In line with ongoing development work on Inclusive Communications, this CIIA will be published on the [Council website](#) in an accessible format in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Changes will be communicated by the service affected using methods that are considered appropriate to the range of audiences, as well as being proportionate. The Edinburgh (City of Edinburgh Council and Health and Social Care Partnership) British Sign Language (BSL) plan demonstrates commitment to improve services for BSL users with actions across a range of themes and services. The Council’s Interpretation and Translation Service is also available for those who require materials in different languages and can also offer an audio, Braille, large print and various computer formats on request through Happy to Translate.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information. N/A

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

IIAs for proposals that may be at a formative stage at this point will need to be reviewed in due course on an ongoing basis. Ongoing efficiency work across the Council will also be cognisant of impact on equalities, sustainability and economy.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Consideration should be given as to how these proposals, their impact, and the cumulative impact, relate to proposals presented by the Integration Joint Board	Elected Members	Ongoing	In line with IJB strategic plan timelines
Elected members should consider the results of the budget proposal IIAs, including this CIIA	Elected Members	February 2026	Ongoing
Implementation of the Poverty Commission Proposals will mitigate against some negative impact on people who are experiencing poverty and positively contribute to addressing poverty in the city	Elected Members and Corporate Leadership Team	Ongoing	Ongoing

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
The Council Business Plan has three priorities; ending poverty in Edinburgh, work to deliver a net zero city by 2030 and create good places to live and work in Edinburgh. Implementation of this plan will ensure mitigating actions are taken against any negative impacts arising from implementation of the budget proposals. Relevant officers will endeavour to ensure equalities is mainstreamed throughout the plan's development, and during implementation, in order to mitigate against any negative impacts identified in this CIIA	Relevant officers	Ongoing	Ongoing
Relevant lead officers for budget proposals should progress any specific actions in individual proposals to mitigate against negative impacts, continue to update their IIAs after further consultation and develop communications plans as appropriate	Relevant lead officers for budget proposals	Ongoing	Ongoing

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

All relevant service areas should put in place appropriate monitoring for implementation of relevant proposals. This should include how the proposals are affecting different groups who share protected characteristics.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Gillie Severin

Date 05/02/2025

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments