

Impact Assessment - First Stage

It is essential that all initiatives undergo a first stage impact assessment to identify relevance to equalities and the Welsh language as well as an evaluation of how the proposal has taken into account the sustainable development principle (the five ways of working); an incorrect assessment could ultimately be open to legal challenge.

The first stage is to carry out a short assessment to help determine the need to undertake a more in-depth analysis (the second stage).

Relevance will depend not only on the number of people/service users affected, but also the significance of the effect on them.

When completing the first step you must have regard to the following:

- Does the initiative relate to an area where important equality issues have been, or are likely to be, raised? (For example, funding for services to assist people who are victims of rape/sexual violence or individuals with particular care need; disabled people's access to public transport; the gender pay gap; racist or homophobic bullying in schools)
- Is there a significant potential for reducing inequalities, or improving outcomes? (For example, increasing recruitment opportunities for disabled people).
- Does the initiative relate to instances where opportunities to use the Welsh language are likely to be affected or where the language is likely to be treated less favourably? (For example, increase the number of Welsh speakers moving from/to a certain area; closing specific Welsh language services or put those services at risk services;
- Does the initiative relate to the improvement of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being? To what extent does the initiative prevent things getting worse? (For example, funding for services to assist in cultural well-being; changes in policies that promote independence and/or assist carers)

1. Provide a description and summary of the initiative. Clarity as to the purpose of the initiative being developed or reviewed; the context within which it will operate; who it is intended to benefit, and the results aimed for is essential.

Identify which service area and directorate has responsibility for the initiative.

Strategic Decision - if yes a Full IIA will be required.

Strategic Decision - is one which effects how we fulfil our intended statutory purpose over a significant period of time. They do not include day to day decisions, such as opening times of civic offices, Christmas car parking arrangements, etc. but will include the following (although these are not exhaustive):

- Strategies developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards which impact on our functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)

- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Changes to and development of public services
- Strategic financial planning
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Strategic policy development.

2. Identify who will be affected by the initiative.

If you answer **Yes** to service users, staff or wider community continue with the first stage of the assessment

If you answer **No** to service users, staff or wider community or **Yes** to 'Internal administrative process only', go to **Question 5 – sustainable development principle**.

3. Evidence - it is essential to have robust and reliable evidence to inform the development and assessment of initiatives. In this section all relevant evidence used in the assessment must be detailed and sources clearly identified; if necessary a summary of the data used can be included. More information on data/evidence can be found in the full IIA Guidance

4. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available to you think about what impact there could be on people who share protected characteristics; whether they are service users, staff or the wider community.

Some things to consider:

- transport issues
- accessibility
- customer service
- cultural sensitivity
- financial implications
- loss of jobs

Definitions of impacts (either positive or negative):

- High – The initiative has a high level of relevance to one or more protected characteristic and/or one or more aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Moderate – The initiative has a moderate level of relevance to one or more protected characteristic and/or one or more aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Low – The initiative has a low level of relevance/is not relevant to any protected characteristic and/or any aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Don't know - the level of relevance of the initiative is unknown

You **must** provide reasons, and indicate what evidence you used, in coming to your decision.

5. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available, think about what impact there could be on opportunities to use the Welsh language and in treating the language no less favourably than English. Further information can be found in Section 6 Welsh of the Full IIA Guidance.

Definitions of impacts are the same as in **Question 3**.

The classification 'Don't Know' should be categorised as 'High Impact' in both questions 3 & 4.

6. The outcomes of any audit of council owned land undertaken by the Countryside and Wildlife Team can be used to inform your assessment. In addition consider the potential impact of your initiative on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

Some examples of how proposals, decisions and functions can impact on biodiversity include:

- Drainage works to a culvert - could result in flooding further downstream or altering the hydrological regime upstream; potential risk of flooding, or wet/bog habitats that trap carbon being drained.
- High level policy, plan or budget decisions may encourage or focus investment in areas that will have significant knock on issues in relation to flooding, climate change sea level rise or biodiversity loss. Alternatively, budget decisions may reduce capacity of services or infrastructure to function and to deliver community environmental services e.g. effects on well-being from a reduction in access to greenspace, parks or environmental community services.
- Decisions can also have positive impacts on the wider environment. For example, reduction in grass cutting that encourages more wildflower growth can positively support pollinator insects that contribute to food production.

7. Consider how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle in accordance with the Section 7c of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Give details of the initiative in relation to the 5 ways of working:

- **Long term** - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people
- **Integration** - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives
- **Involvement** - how people have been involved in developing the initiative
- **Collaboration** - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions;
- **Prevention** - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse

8. The most appropriate statement must be selected (and the relevant box ticked) based on the first stage of the assessment and an explanation of how you have arrived at this decision must be given.

In addition a summary of the how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle must also be included.

Where the first stage of the assessment indicates that a more in-depth analysis is required the second stage of the assessment will need to be completed and this will need to be started immediately.

A first stage assessment must be included as a background paper for all Cabinet/Cabinet Board/ Scrutiny Committee Reports.

Where the first stage assessment is completed by an accountable manager it must be signed off by a Head of Service/Director.

NB: these notes to be removed prior to inclusion of First Stage Impact Assessment with Cabinet/Cabinet Board papers.

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Pilot of Access Approach to Parks and Gardens
Service Area: Neighbourhood Services
Directorate: Environment
Strategic Decision: Yes

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	x	
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Evidence used in the Assessment

Throughout the borough, parks and gardens are currently opened and closed on a daily basis, limiting out of hours access. During the summer months, some parks and gardens were not locked overnight owing to staffing issues. This period is now referred to as an unofficial trial of the proposed changes. For that period, data was collected from local PCSO officers, along with internal staff, in order to assess the impacts on the local communities. The result was evident that the implementation of this change, by allowing permanent pedestrian access, would have limited impact on residents. However, in order to fully access this impact, we are proposing to undertake an official trial throughout the winter period. This would enable further understanding of potential issues that may arise from implementing this change on a permanent basis.

4. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L/D	Reasons for your decision and details of the impact
Age				X		More data to be collected throughout official trial period.
Disability				X		
Gender Reassignment				X		
Marriage/Civil Partnership				X		
Pregnancy/Maternity				X		
Race				X		
Religion/Belief				X		
Sex				X		
Sexual orientation				X		

5. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x				No impacts.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		x				No impacts. Any information or communications on this item will be delivered in both Welsh and English.

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6. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		X				No Impacts
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		X				No Impacts

7. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		This initiative, along with the wider Neighbourhood Services transformation programme is being tables in order to ensure that services are sustainable and support our communities moving forward.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	X		The change will allow permanent access to open spaces for our residents, having a positive impact on mental health and well-being, along with improved access to open space.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		An integral part of this process has been the successful involvement from internal staff and local PCSO officers. Further consultation may be required from other stakeholders after the official trial period has been conducted.

	Yes	No	Details
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		A key success in this change will be ongoing collaboration with local PCSO officers and local residents.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		Carrying out an official trial of this change will allow a strategic decision to be made based on evidence and collated data.

8. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
Not at this stage. Evidence will be obtained throughout the trial period, which could result in a full impact assessment or a requirement for further consultation, before permanently implementing changes.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
N/A	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
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Completed by	James Davies	Neighbourhood Services Manager	J.M.Davies	18.10.2024
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		