

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report	X	Final report	
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(Tick as appropriate)

1. Title of proposal

Changes to Place Services arising from COVID 19, including:

- Creation of Council Resilience Centres (5)
- Changes to waste and recycling services (particularly interim suspension of special uplift, glass and garden waste collections, closure of recycling centres)
- Reduced bus services
- Closure of facilities and buildings (e.g. Cultural Venues, Museums and Galleries, Playparks, Registrars) to end of April 2020 initially
- The suspension of pay and display parking charges
- Closure of Nicolson Square Gardens
- Suspension of construction of new tram line

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

At the outbreak of COVID 19 a number of Council services had to adapt to respond to the restrictions put in place to protect public health. This included temporary suspension of some Council frontline services, closure of some buildings (and therefore service suspensions), the suspension of fees and charges and the creation of five locally based resilience centres to provide critical advice and support in neighbourhoods for vulnerable people in critical need and to provide a neighbourhood base for coordination and support for essential services to vulnerable people. In addition, construction of the Tram to Newhaven project was suspended, in accordance with guidance issued by the Scottish government, and the decision was taken not to implement programmed traffic management on Leith Walk.

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

The decisions taken swiftly by Council Incident Management Team (CIMT) making changes to Council services were based on officer recommendations, and discussion with the Council Leader and Depute Leader. The approach being taken includes working closely with public and voluntary sector partners but there was not time for specific public involvement in the development of plans. As resources have allowed, changes have been made to reinstate services or to adapt services further.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the [Fairer Scotland Duty](#)?

No

5. Date of IIA

The initial consideration of impacts was undertaken at the point of decision making however the written IIA was prepared w/c 18 May 2020.

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

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Michael Thain	Head of Place Development	
Gareth Barwell	Head of Place Management	
Lynne Halfpenny	Director of Culture	
Andy Williams	Waste and Cleansing Manager	
Mike Avery	Locality Manager	
Karl Chapman	Cultural Venues Manager	
Frank Little	Cultural Venues Manager	
Robbie Beattie	Scientific, Bereavement and Registration Services Manager	
Hannah Ross	Senior Responsible Officer – Tram	
Gavin Sherriff	Senior Transport Team Leader - Parking Enforcement	10/10/2018
Ruth Muir	Transport Officer – Parking Enforcement	
Joanne Yorkston	Transport Officer – Parking Enforcement	
Gavin Graham	Parking and Traffic Regulation Manager	
Alison Coburn	Operations Manager	23/01/2019

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?
Data on populations in need		<p>This data is held within service areas and decisions were taken based on service knowledge and understanding, alongside recognising the resources available.</p> <p>Specifically in respect of suspension of pay and display parking charges, healthcare workers required additional help to park within Edinburgh to response to the Coronavirus pandemic. In addition, with people self-isolating when exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms, widespread dispensations were required to prevent symptomatic people having to move their vehicles.</p>
Data on service uptake/access		<p>This data is held within service areas and decisions were taken based on service knowledge and understanding, alongside</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
		recognising the resources available. Service data has been collected, where possible, to analyse service demand and issues as these arise.
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.		This data is held within service areas and decisions were taken based on service knowledge and understanding, alongside recognising the resources available. Service data has been collected, where possible, to analyse service demand and issues as these arise.
Data on equality outcomes		<p>This data is held within service areas and decisions were taken based on service knowledge and understanding, alongside recognising the resources available. Service data has been collected, where possible, to analyse service demand and issues as these arise.</p> <p>Disabled people, without a blue badge, will now be able to park free of charge nearer to shops and local health centres, thus enhancing their accessibility however they may be at a disadvantage as previously, they had enhanced access to public parking places, specifically free parking and no maximum stay periods, which is now available to all motorists.</p>
Research/literature evidence		
Public/patient/client experience information		This data is held within service areas and decisions were taken based on service knowledge and understanding, alongside recognising the resources available. Service data has been collected, where possible, to analyse service demand and issues as these arise.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		
Evidence of unmet need		
Good practice guidelines		These decisions were made based on the Government guidance in response to COVID 19 and the impact of this guidance on the Council's ability to continue to deliver services.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
		<p>The decision to instruct contractors to cease construction on the Tram to Newhaven project was made based on best practice guidance issued by the Scottish Government to close construction sites in light of COVID 19.</p> <p>The Decision to suspend most birth registrations and wedding ceremonies was made under regulation introduced by national government with no local discretion. Death registrations were moved nationally to a remote procedure and has worked well. Those requiring an urgent birth certificate, which number less than ten, have been facilitated.</p> <p>For parking, joint advice was produced by the BPA and CoSLA recommended suspending parking charges for key workers, such as; NHS, Health and Social Care, emergency services, transport workers and other volunteers meant that otherwise a plethora of permit schemes would require to be established and managed, consuming valuable organisational skills and resources at a critical juncture.</p>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		The data collection of this is on-going in respect of COVID 19.
Environmental data		The data collection of this is on-going in respect of COVID 19.
Risk from cumulative impacts		There is a risk that free parking encourages unnecessary car journeys into Edinburgh. In addition, reintroducing parking charges and maximum stay periods will present its own problems.
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required		

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

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive All of the decisions taken by CIMT in response to COVID 19 have been to protect public health.</p> <p>Council Resilience Centres (CRCs) were established for the purpose of being a physical access point for those in critical need of support and advice and as a base for the coordination of essential services. The centres are based in areas of deprivation and where there is the greatest need for this type of service and gives an alternative access point for customers who do not find the other access points for services e.g. digital, very accessible. The centres were some of the first council facilities to benefit from a comprehensive redesign which aimed to ensure that both customers and staff were protected from the risk of infection and harm. They improve access to service for people from both disadvantaged and protected groups. The service provided signposts and supports people to access the services required, where these are not being delivered locally. This includes access to homeless accommodation support, providing transportation where necessary.</p> <p>The reinstatement of kerbside glass and garden waste collections, alongside special uplifts has enabled citizens to return to receiving the same services as were in place before the COVID 19 outbreak.</p> <p>The suspension of parking charges has a number of potentially positive impacts for people delivering essential goods, such as food and medicines, to older people. It will also help care workers park near to their patients’ houses and disabled people, without a blue badge, as they will be able to park free of charge near shops and local health centres. In addition, people who are shielding and/or who have symptoms will no longer need to leave the house to pay for parking or to move vehicles. And it reduces the number of parking places that need to be monitored and fewer Parking Attendants need to be deployed on street. This protects our staff, public transport users and the general public as fewer Attendants are walking around the city.</p> <p>In tandem with the closure of the construction site for the Tram to Newhaven Project the following measures were put in place to protect the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project contact centre remained open to manage queries from the public; • Skeleton traffic management and contractor teams were retained to ensure that the site remained secure and safe throughout the construction shut down; 	<p>All</p>

- An advisory one way system was implemented around the construction site to assist pedestrians to maintain social distancing when passing the construction site.

Negative

The decision to focus on the kerbside and communal waste collection services was driven by the need to ensure citizens received regular waste collection services, within the resources available in the service. This initially meant the suspension of special uplifts, glass recycling and garden waste collections. The decision applied to kerbside collections across the city and did not adversely affect any protected group.

The closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres has adversely affected people taking rubbish from their homes to local centres for disposal. This decision was taken in response to the public health restrictions (which applied to all local authorities) which require people to physically distance from others and to protect Council employees as well as to release employees to support kerbside and communal waste collections. This decision does not adversely impact any protected group more adversely than the wider community.

The changes in Waste and Cleansing have led to an increase in reports of fly tipping around the city, particularly in areas of deprivation, however local arrangements are in place to deal with these situations as they arise.

The reduction in public transport operations was a decision taken by the local bus and tram company to protect public health, to protect employees and to respond to the reduced number of passengers. Public transport patronage in Edinburgh is high in normal circumstances but the impact of COVID 19 and the associated restrictions means that service reductions are not adversely affecting individual protected groups more than citizens overall.

The decision to close public buildings and play parks was in direct response to the public health restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID 19. This has meant cancellation of events and activities in cultural venues and museums and galleries, the closure of registrar offices, the closure of play parks and an increase in signage reminding people to observe physical distancing in public spaces including parks and promenades. These changes do not adversely affect any single protected group.

The closure of Nicolson Square Gardens was a direct result of a request from local residents following concerns that people were observed not to be physically distancing. This small enclosed park is regularly used by people to congregate in groups and drink alcohol. In the current public health emergency and the current pressures on

<p>public service, it was considered that the park should be closed to prevent this from continuing. It is not a space that lends itself to exercise and therefore its closure is not detrimental to others who are seeking use of greenspace to exercise.</p> <p>The suspension of the Tram to Newhaven works was a direct response to Scottish Government guidance on construction sites. This may result in a change to the works programme, but this will not adversely affect any single protected group.</p> <p>The suspension of P&D parking charges could increase demand for parking spaces and may mean that older and/or disabled blue badge holders are disadvantaged by being less likely to be able to park near their homes, shops or health care services. Previously, they had the advantage of parking without charge or time limit in public parking places over other motorists, but since anyone can now park in such a manner, this may disadvantage blue badge holders</p>	
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<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive The restrictions in place as a result of COVID 19 have led to fewer vehicles travelling around the city, therefore it is understood to have a positive effect on the local environment.</p> <p>Negative There has been a reduction in waste arisings as a result of the service changes in waste collection. This is being monitored as services return to identify if arisings increase, offsetting the earlier reductions.</p> <p>Free parking could encourage people to travel by car unnecessarily, contributing to GHG and carbon emissions. This could also restrict access for people making essential trips, such as for shopping or health care and could also restrict deliveries, if parking spaces are fully-occupied with no turnover during the day.</p> <p>Free parking may also discourage people from walking or cycling for their daily exercise or for travel to essential work, by taking the car instead and may encourage non-essential car journeys which risk accidents and put additional strain on NHS services at such a crucial time. However, the volumes of traffic on roads at present are considerably lower than normal.</p>	<p>Affected populations</p>
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<p>Economic including socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive</p>	<p>Affected populations</p> <p>All</p>
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Council Resilience Centres (CRCs) were established for the purpose of being a physical access point for those in critical need of support and advice and as a base for the coordination of essential services.

The centres are based in areas of deprivation and where there is the greatest need for this type of service and gives an alternative access point for customers who do not find the other access points for services e.g. digital, very accessible. The centres were some of the first council facilities to benefit from a comprehensive redesign which aimed to ensure that both customers and staff were protected from the risk of infection and harm.

They improve access to service for people from both disadvantaged and protected groups.

The service provided signposts and supports people to access the services required, where these are not being delivered locally. This includes access to homeless accommodation support, providing transportation where necessary.

In Registrars, the death management process has operated smoothly at what is an extremely difficult time for families. The decision to delay the implementation of increased fees for registrations will help people who are financially struggling, at a very sad time.

Suspending P&D parking charges will remove a financial barrier and enhance accessibility to shops and health services for older people, while people are being advised not to travel by public transport. It will also help reduce the cost of travelling by car for everyone, especially unemployed people or those on benefits, while undertaking essential travel.

It will allow non-permit holding residents to park for free during the day, if they now need to work from home or are furloughed and will allow essential business employees to travel safely to work by car when the use of public transport is being discouraged

Negative

COVID 19 is expected to have an impact on the wider economy however this does not directly relate to any of the decisions listed above taken by CIMT.

The suspension of wedding ceremonies has caused emotional distress for some customers.

Free parking will have a significant negative impact on parking income, both in terms of parking charges and reduced parking permit income. This is used to fund enforcement services with any surplus supporting transport improvements in Edinburgh.

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?

For Parking, the suspension of charges will be put in place by the Council’s enforcement contractor and its suppliers. No impacts on any rights or issues have been identified

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.

The Council has a communications strategy in place to communicate the changes implemented as a result of COVID 19 and CIMT decisions.

11. Is the 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.

The Parking changes affect transport, but an SEA is not considered to be appropriate at this time as this decision is being made following government recommendations for healthcare workers not to use public transport unless absolutely necessary

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

The impacts will continue to be monitored as services return to identify if there are any on-going environmental or sustainability impacts resulting from the changes made.

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

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?

These decisions were interim, short-term measures in response to COVID-19. The monitoring arrangements for future provision will be assessed in line with the Scottish Government's route map through and out of the COVID-19 crisis.

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

Name: Paul Lawrence

Date: 18 June 2020

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the IIA directory on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments