



Integrated Impact Assessment Pre-screening Stage 1

The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) supersedes the previous Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) form.

The pre-screening (Stage 1) will determine if your proposal requires a full impact assessment (Stage 2). Stage 2 will look at details of your proposals, the impact and any mitigations in place.

Note: This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: 'Guide to Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment'. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

This assessment and accompanying guidance use the term 'policy' for any activity within Aberdeen City Council. Therefore 'policy' should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your policies, provisions, criteria, functions, practices and activities including the delivery of services – essentially everything you do.

Purpose:

Aberdeen City Council wants Aberdeen to be a place where all people can prosper. We want everyone in Aberdeen to have fair opportunities regardless of their background and circumstances. The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the policy / proposal on different communities.
- whether Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), [Equality Outcomes](#) and [Human Rights](#);
- whether [Children's Rights](#) have been impacted;
- whether [Socio-economic disadvantage](#) is reduced;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised which will be covered in Stage 2.

Title* Name your business case, policy, strategy or proposal	Aberdeen City Region Deal (ACRD) - Digital Infrastructure Business Case
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(including budget proposals)			
Is this a new or existing policy/ proposal?	New Proposal		
Brief description of policy / proposal (including intended outcomes and purposes)	<p>The Digital Programme of the Aberdeen City Region Deal is an investment in the Digital Connectivity and associated telecommunications infrastructure of the region. This includes but is not limited to full fibre fixed connectivity and associated infrastructure, 4G, 5G and Internet of Things wireless networks. The programme will deliver the essential underlying Infrastructure required to support and underpin the regions broader economic development. It will help to ensure that the region is equipped with future-proofed Digital Infrastructure that will provide the transformative foundations for City Deal interventions and wider regional growth.</p> <p>The project streams presented in the Digital Infrastructure Business Case are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of loans to telecommunications operators to stimulate investment in full fibre infrastructure in the Region. This will leverage additional commercial investment and accelerate and increase the availability of full fibre over and above that provided by existing planned commercial investments and public sector interventions such as R100. • The provision of investment to Port of Aberdeen to procure private 5G infrastructure in the new Aberdeen South Port to increase productivity and reduce operational costs, enabling Aberdeen comparable with leading ports across the world. • The provision of investment to ScotEID/SAOS to facilitate the delivery of industry leading Agri-tech applications and services and environmental monitoring in rural Aberdeenshire using Huntly as an initial area. A key goal of the Agri-tech programme is to monitor environmental impacts in rural areas. • A test-bed for 5G has been established in Aberdeen to help businesses explore the potential applications of next generation mobile connectivity. Scotland 5G Centre and Opportunity North East (ONE) are collaborating to drive the adoption of 5G in key sectors of the economy – including energy, utilities, ports and logistics. There is potential to expand its activities by funding mobile ‘pop up’ coverage in the region to enable companies to test applications in a real-life environment. <p>The relationship between the project streams and a transition to net zero according to Scotland’s Climate Change Plan is assessed and presented. Indeed, each of the streams has beneficial impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider availability of broadband in rural homes reduces the need for travel and aids the efficiency of delivery of public services • The reduction of CO2 in ports is a major benefit. There is a reduction in the need for construction activities and operationally the port will make greater use of autonomous vehicles and reduce the waiting times for vessels • A key goal of the Agri-tech programme is to monitor environmental impacts in rural areas. <p>The project has been categorised following Scottish City and Growth Deal Carbon Guidance according to its Control (3) and Influence (A) over carbon in a Carbon Emissions Impact.</p>		
Do you consider this proposal to have an impact on the:			
a. Human Rights of people?	Yes	No X	Unsure
	Yes	No X	Unsure

b. Rights of Children and Young people?								
What is your assessment of the impact on groups with: a. Protected characteristics b. Children and young people c. Other For example – consider the impact of your policy on people and how they will be able to access goods, services and information with no barriers.	H	High negative impact	H	M	L	N	P	U
	M	Medium negative impact						
	L	Low negative impact						
	N	No impact						
	P	Positive impact						
	U	Unsure						
	Age						X	
	Disability						X	
	Gender Reassignment						X	
	Marriage and Civil partnership						X	
	Pregnancy and Maternity						X	
	Race						X	
	Religion or Belief						X	
	Sex						X	
Sexual Orientation						X		
Children and young people						X		
Other						X		
Socio-Economic Inequalities Not every person / family has access to regular income or savings. Will your proposal have an adverse or high impact on them?	Yes	No There will be no adverse impact on people with low or no income as a result of this project. The project has the ability to increase the ability of remote and low socio-economic areas to better access services, support, care and training by developing robust digital infrastructures and facilitating investment in the area and ensuring investors develop and deliver community benefit programmes to address local issues.	Unsure					
What considerations did you have when making the above selections?								
Internal or existing data Please detail your sources	The Aberdeen City Region Deal Digital programme has resulted in a greatly improved level of both fixed and mobile infrastructure investment in the region. This includes extensive City Fibre infrastructure in Aberdeen City and the on-going deployment of Fibre-To-The-Premise by City Fibre and Vodafone, the procurement of open access fibre infrastructure from Neos Networks linking public sector sites in the key development corridors of Aberdeenshire within the housing market area, continued upgrade and investment in Aberdeen City Council's duct network which is available for commercial use by providers. National initiatives such as the Scottish Government R100 programme are also driving investment and enhancing connectivity in the region.							

The City Region Deal is eager to build on these initiatives with continued investment and intervention, therefore a gap analysis was completed to review infrastructure shortfalls in the region;

The current availability of broadband services in the region is shown in the following table (Source: Ofcom Spring 2022).

	Premises	% Availability Superfast (>30Mbps download)	% Availability Ultrafast (>100Mbps download)	% Availability full fibre
Aberdeen City	127,838	94.8%	68.8%	61.6%
Aberdeenshire	126,756	83.7%	15.7%	15.6%

Broadband Availability in Aberdeen City Region Deal (source: Ofcom 2022)

It should be stated that the goal of the Aberdeen City Region Digital Connectivity programme is the provision of ubiquitous coverage of broadband services in the region and will not be selective. Hence there will not be an adverse impact of the equality of access to services. As part of the assessment process the regional broadband provision was overlaid with Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data to assess any correlation between poor broadband service provision and levels of deprivation this showed that the quality of broadband service provision was actually driven by issues such as remoteness, investment cost per line and density of population rather than a function of the wealth of an area. Many of the gaps in service provision actually lie in affluent areas that are less densely populated.

Consultations with officers or partner organisations
Please list your sources

This proposal is subject to approval of the Aberdeen City Region Deal Programme Board and Joint Committee, the Scottish Government and UK Government, and Aberdeenshire Council.

The setup of Aberdeen City Region Deal Governance can be accessed from ACRD website (www.abzdeal.com) and Annual Report <https://investaberdeen.co.uk/City%20Region%20Deal%202022%201.5.pdf>

We will be working with partner organisations to ensure that any procurement has community benefits embedded within the bids. Further detail on the community benefits will be at the procurement stage.

Other:
Please list your sources

The Aberdeen City Region Deal Benefits Realisation Plan (BRP) will detail the realisation of benefits across the Digital Infrastructure Programme, bringing focus and alignment to the new Regional Economic Strategy.

Does this proposal contribute to the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of

Yes –
The aim of the project to provide better access to services, support, care and training by developing robust digital infrastructures. This will also allow for improved engagement with online remote resources that were previously inaccessible which will advance equality of opportunity for stakeholders with protected characteristics. Digital access opens opportunity for many, the option of flexible working contributes to reduction of carbon

No

Unsure

opportunity and foster good relations?	emissions due to less travel, improving overall health and wealth.		
Does this proposal contribute to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?	<p>Yes – This project will support delivery of EO1 by increasing the accessibility of robust digital infrastructures extending access to services, support, care and training, particularly for the young, elderly and those with disabilities.</p> <p>In addition, from the E02 delivery perspective, the access to digital services and support will increase response rate and support faster which will enable people to have a more independent life in their own homes. There will be opportunities to create digital communities that would support social and learning opportunities.</p> <p>With the offer of more hybrid and accessible information and events, the project aims to increase civic participation of people with protected characteristics as per outcome E03.</p>	No	Unsure

Please note for any high negative or medium negative impacts identified (red or amber), a full Integrated Impact Assessment will be required (stage 2).

Please provide a brief high-level summary that your policy will bring about:
 In line with the ACRD’s focus on inclusive and sustainable growth, Aberdeen City is aligned to the national average of 94% availability of superfast broadband services (>30Mbps). Higher speed full fibre services are key to maintaining business competitiveness, however there are considerable gaps in Aberdeenshire, even after the R100 deployment due to the lack of infrastructure being ubiquitous and the slow pace and depth of work to extend coverage by commercial providers. Even with the roll out of the R100 scheme 9,500 sites will remain un-served across the region.

In addition, national operators have been reluctant to proactively invest in rural communities other than on a small scale. Feedback provided after engagement with all registered local and national telecoms operators capable of deploying superfast broadband solutions was that Aberdeenshire is too rural, and too remote from central backhaul infrastructure and is not commercially viable for operators to spend capital in infrastructure expansion for a small number of potential customers.

The key quantifiable benefits identified for the successful completion of project streams are:

- Local enterprise growth
- Enterprise productivity growth
- Increased teleworker productivity
- Increased participation of carers and the disabled
- Reduced travel as more people is able to work at home and there is reduced need for face-to-face meetings due the availability of variety of platforms like Teams, Zoom etc
- Access to education: Learners in all ages and abilities will benefit from tools and resources, for example able to access lessons and content on line. This could be measured through course take up and attendance and possibly monitoring of individual performance

- Improved access to health care. This may include the provision of care at home services, remote, monitoring of individuals health through sensors, monitoring of home environment. The key quantifiable benefit is that people are able to be cared for longer at home rather than be housing in care homes or NHS facilities. Digital options are more likely to improve response rates for most emergency services hence the spreading out of the offer into rural areas spreads the access and benefits.
- Employment: Workers are able to more easily find and access jobs on line and be more flexible in their work patterns. Also, with the increase of both hybris and remote working, employment opportunities are likely to increase for those with protected characteristics and living in socio economic disadvantage.
- Reduction of superfast broadband not spots – notably (but not exclusively) in rural communities and reduction of wait for service provision
- Operational cost savings and increased productivity to Port of Aberdeen
- Enhanced rural productivity
- Enhanced environmental monitoring and control in rural areas
- Community resilience: workers are able to work and live in more rural locations rather than having to migrate to more urban areas to find employment

Will a full assessment be required?	Yes	No X	Unsure
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Assessment completed by: Name and job title	Wendy Robertson - Digital Infrastructure Lead, Aberdeen City Council Aigul Gray - Project Support Office, Aberdeen City Council
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Date:	27 October 2022
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Signed and approved by Chief Officer (Name and signature)	 Richard Sweetnam
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