

Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment 00105 (Version 1)

SECTION ONE: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Service & Division:	Development Services Planning & Economic Development	Lead Officer Name:	Pete Reid
		Team:	Growth & Investment Unit
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Proposal:	Transformation of Planning & Economic Development: Business Gateway Saving	Reference No:	DV30

What is the Proposal?	Budget & Other Financial Decision	Policy (New or Change)	HR Policy & Practice	Change to Service Delivery / Service Design
	Yes	No	No	No
Who does the Proposal affect?	Service Users	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
	No	Yes	No	No
Other, please specify:				

Identify the main aims and projected outcome of this proposal (please add date of each update):	
23/01/2019	Impact – reduction in support to local businesses in the Falkirk area with indirect impact of reducing new start and growth sector opportunities
23/01/2019	Impacts on delivery of Economic Development Strategy 2015-25 objectives
23/01/2019	Impacts on Council Corporate Plan 2017-22 priorities – growing the economy, promoting town centres, increasing inward investment, partnership working and increasing jobs quality and income.

SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For budget changes ONLY please include information below:			Benchmark, e.g. Scottish Average
Current spend on this service (£'0000s)	Total:	382	Allocated within block grant for delivery of Business Gateway services in Falkirk area - benchmarked in annual SLAED indicators.
Reduction to this service budget (£'0000s)	Per Annum:	25	
Increase to this service budget (£'000s)	Per Annum:		
If this is a change to a charge or concession please complete.	Current Annual Income Total:		
	Expected Annual Income Total:		
If this is a budget decision, when will the saving be achieved?	Start Date:	01/04/2019	
	End Date (if any):		

SECTION THREE: EVIDENCE Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EPIA. (This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups.)

A - Quantitative Evidence This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

No impact on protected groups.

B - Qualitative Evidence This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

Social - case studies; personal / group feedback / other

Reduction in targeted support for business support activities delivered within national Business Gateway delivery framework. Any service reduction off set by service delivery changes e.g. increased support to groups of business, less one to one support.

Best Judgement:

Has best judgement been used in place of data/research/evidence?	No
Who provided the best judgement and what was this based on?	
What gaps in data / information were identified?	
Is further research necessary?	No
If NO, please state why.	Withdrawing funding will directly impact on delivery of the Falkirk Economic Strategy 2015-25 outputs and reduction in business support activities.

SECTION FOUR: ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the policy or proposal must take place

Has the proposal / policy / project been subject to engagement or consultation with service users taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?	No	
If YES, please state who was engagement with.		
If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.	Not currently as was not part of original savings proposed. Accelerated savings.	
How was the engagement carried out?	What were the results from the engagement? Please list...	
Focus Group	No	
Survey	No	
Display / Exhibitions	No	
User Panels	No	
Public Event	No	
Other: please specify	n/a	
Has the proposal / policy/ project been reviewed / changed as a result of the engagement?	No	
Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?	No	
Is further engagement recommended?	Yes	

SECTION FIVE: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

Equality Protected Characteristics: What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposal / policy / project? This section allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. poverty, health inequalities, community justice, public protection etc.

Protected Characteristic	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Please provide evidence of the impact on this protected characteristic.
Age	✓			Potential impact in contribution to support and grow economy and activity to create jobs.
Disability	✓			Potential impact in contribution to support and grow economy and activity to create jobs.
Sex	✓			Potential impact in contribution to support and grow economy and activity to create jobs.
Ethnicity	✓			Potential impact in contribution to support and grow economy and activity to create jobs.
Religion / Belief / non-Belief	✓			n/a
Sexual Orientation	✓			n/a
Transgender	✓			n/a
Pregnancy / Maternity	✓			n/a
Marriage / Civil Partnership	✓			n/a
Poverty	✓			Potential impact in contribution to support and grow economy and activity to create jobs.
Other, health, community justice, public protection etc.				n/a
Risk (Identify other risks associated with this change)				

Public Sector Equality Duty: Scottish Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance quality of opportunity and foster good relations. Scottish specific duties include:

	Evidence of Due Regard
Eliminate Unlawful Discrimination (harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):	The proposed change does not aid elimination of unlawful discrimination but neither does it have an adverse effect.
Advance Equality of Opportunity:	The proposed change does not aid the advancement of equality of opportunity but neither does it have an adverse impact.
Foster Good Relations (promoting understanding and reducing prejudice):	The proposed change does not help foster good relationships but neither does it have an adverse impact.

SECTION SIX: PARTNERS / OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposal / policy / project?		Describe the interest / affect.
Business	Yes	Reduction in support for businesses to grow in the Falkirk area.
Councils	No	
Education Sector	No	
Fire	No	
NHS	No	
Integration Joint Board	No	
Police	No	
Third Sector	Yes	Reduced support for social enterprise support
Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact.		

SECTION SEVEN: ACTION PLANNING

Mitigating Actions: If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section 5 please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Identified Impact	To Who	Action(s)	Lead Officer	Evaluation and Review Date	Strategic Reference to Corporate Plan / Service Plan / Quality Outcomes
Reduced employment opportunities	Falkirk population	Seek alternative delivery means for business support	Pete Reid	01/04/2020	Corporate Plan priorities SOLD priorities Service Plan 2020-21 Falkirk Economic Strategy Growth: Investment: Inclusion- an economic Strategy for Falkirk 2015-25 SLAED national indicators

No Mitigating Actions

Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposals.

Are actions being reported to Members?

Yes

If yes when and how ?

As part of the report to Full Council at its meeting in February 2019.

SECTION EIGHT: ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposal / policy / project. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	No	
The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups	No	
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups	Yes	Reduced business support programme delivery
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation	No	

SECTION NINE: LEAD OFFICER SIGN OFF

Lead Officer:

Signature:	<i>Pete Reid</i>	Date:	23/01/2019
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SECTION TEN: EPIA TASK GROUP ONLY

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EPIA: Has the EPIA demonstrated the use of data, appropriate engagement, identified mitigating actions as well as ownership and appropriate review of actions to confidently demonstrate compliance with the general and public sector equality duties?	No
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ASSESSMENT FINDINGS If YES, use this box to highlight evidence in support of the assessment of the EPIA If NO, use this box to highlight actions needed to improve the EPIA	There is no evidence provided to suggest any impact on protected characteristic groups.
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Where adverse impact on diverse communities has been identified and it is intended to continue with the proposal / policy / project, has justification for continuing <u>without making changes been made</u>?	Yes / No	If YES, please describe:
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LEVEL OF IMPACT: The EPIA Task Group has agreed the following level of impact on the protected characteristic groups highlighted within the EPIA

LEVEL		COMMENTS
HIGH	Yes / No	
MEDIUM	Yes / No	
LOW	Yes	

SECTION ELEVEN: CHIEF OFFICER SIGN OFF

Director / Head of Service:		
Signature:	<i>Rhona Geisler</i>	Date: 01/02/2019