

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Please refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Guidance when completing this form.

Basic Details

1. Title of proposal (include budget reference if applicable)

Review of Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

2. Service(s)

Corporate Solutions

3. Lead officer (name, job title and date of IIA training)

Gill Smith, Elections Officer

4. Other officers/partners involved (name, job title and date of IIA training)

Alan Turpie, Legal & Governance Officer

5. Date IIA completed

23/10/2024

6. Nature of proposal

Review of an existing strategy or policy

Other (please specify)

7. Brief description of proposal

What are its main aims and objectives? What, if anything, will change as a result of this proposal?

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires local authorities to undertake a compulsory Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review within the period 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 inclusive and every 5 years thereafter. Midlothian's Review has now been carried out and the proposals are contained within the report.

As part of the review process local authorities must:-

- Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled; and
- When considering or reviewing the designation of a polling place, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

Equality and Rights

8. Could the proposal have an impact on any of the following groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010? (select all that apply)

Protected characteristics	
Age (older people, young people and children)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability (people with disabilities)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment (trans people, anyone whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership (people who are married or in a civil partnership)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity (women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (people defined by their colour, ethnicity or nationality – e.g. Asian and black people)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief (people with different religions and beliefs, including no belief)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex (men or women)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual/straight)	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Could the proposal have an impact on children and young people under the age of 18?

Yes

10. Could the proposal have an impact on **human rights**?

See pages 14-15 of the IIA Guidance.

No

11. Is the proposal a 'strategic decision' under the **Fairer Scotland Duty** to actively consider how to reduce socio-economic disadvantage (i.e. poverty)?

Please select from the list below. The proposal is strategic if it falls under any of the headings.

Choose an item.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered yes to any of questions 8-11, you must also answer questions 12-15.

If you were unsure about any of questions 8-11, it is advised that you answer questions 12-15.

If you answered no to all of questions 8-11, please advance to **question 16 (Environment)**.

Equality and Rights

12. What kind of impact could the proposal have on groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act? (please explain your answers)

Protected characteristic	Potential impact	Explanation
Age	Positive	All polling facilities are reviewed to ensure accessibility is key to all groups in the community.
Disability	Positive	All polling facilities are reviewed to ensure accessibility is key to all groups in the community.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	
Race	Neutral	
Religion or belief	Neutral	
Sex	Neutral	

Protected characteristic	Potential impact	Explanation
Sexual orientation	Neutral	

Equality and Rights

13. What kind of impact could the proposal have on children and young people in terms of the requirements of the [UNCRC \(Scotland\) \(Incorporation\) Act 2023](#)?

A full list of the UNCRC Articles can be found on pages 12-13 of the IIA Guidance.

UNCRC Article	Particular groups of children affected	Potential impact	Explanation
Article 3 (best interests of the child)		Positive	All polling facilities are reviewed to ensure accessibility is key to all groups in the community.
Article 6 (life, survival and development)		Neutral	
Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)		Neutral	
Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)		Neutral	
Article 23 (children with a disability)		Neutral	
Article 27 (adequate standard of living)		Neutral	
Article 29 (goals of education)		Neutral	

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)		Neutral	
Other (please specify)		Choose an item.	

Equality and Rights

14. What kind of impact could the proposal have in terms of the Articles of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)?

See pages 14-15 of the IIA Guidance.

Article of ECHR	Particular groups of people affected	Potential impact	Explanation
Protocol 1, Article 3	All	Positive	To provide accessible facilities for people to freely vote in secret
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	
		Choose an item.	

15. What kind of impact could the proposal have on people experiencing or vulnerable to socio-economic disadvantage (i.e. poverty)?

An explanation of the different features of socio-economic disadvantage and information on vulnerable population groups can be found on page 18 of the IIA Guidance.

Socio-economic disadvantage	Potential impact	Explanation
Low income	Neutral	
Low and/or no wealth	Neutral	
Material deprivation	Neutral	

Socio-economic disadvantage	Potential impact	Explanation
Area deprivation	Neutral	
Socio-economic background	Neutral	
Other	Choose an item.	

Environment

16. What impact could the proposal have on the environment?

Considerations relating to the environment, climate change and sustainability are described on pages 19-20 of the IIA Guidance.

Potential impact	Affected populations	Explanation
Neutral		

If the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the environment (positive or negative), it is advised that you undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Further information on when an SEA is required can be found on page 19 of the IIA Guidance and on the [Scottish Government website](#).

If you have identified any impact (positive, negative or neutral) on protected characteristic groups, children and young people, human rights, socio-economic disadvantage or the environment, you must complete all of the remaining sections.

If you have not identified any potential impact on protected characteristic groups, children and young people, human rights, socio-economic disadvantage or the environment, please advance directly to **question 29 (Recommendation)**.

Evidence

17. What data, research and other evidence informed the proposal?

Evidence can include, for instance, surveys, databases, census and population figures, focus groups, in-depth interviews, pilot projects, reviews of complaints, user feedback, academic publication and consulting reports.

Evidence source	Explanation (what does the evidence tell us about nature and scale of the potential impact?)

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Consultation and Engagement

18. How has the proposal been informed by consultation and engagement?

Please explain who was consulted/engaged during the development of the proposal, the extent of their involvement, what their views were and how these have been taken into account.

In addition to press advertisement, social media posts and details being posted on the Council's website, stakeholders including all Midlothian Councillors, the MP for the Midlothian Constituency, the Constituency MSPs, Community Councils and all Political Parties at a national level, were informed of the Review. Capability Scotland were also invited to comment.

Any comments received will be included in the Council Report and considered appropriately

Mitigating Actions

19. Could the proposal, in its current form, discriminate against people in a protected characteristic group? No

20. Could the proposal, in its current form, violate the rights of children and young people under the UNCRC Act? No

21. Could the proposal, in its current form, violate human rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)? No

22. Could the proposal, in its current form, entrench or increase inequality of outcome due to poverty? No

23. If applicable, please describe any actions which could be taken to remove or mitigate the potential negative impact of the proposal.

Please provide estimates of the resource implications of adopting these actions.

Not applicable

24. If you have identified any potential negative impact which cannot be removed or mitigated, please clearly state your justification for continuing with the proposal.

Not applicable

NOTE: If the proposal could be deemed discriminatory under the Equality Act, UNCRC or ECHR, you must revise the proposal to ensure that the Council acts lawfully.

Monitoring and Review

25. How will the implementation and impact of the proposal be monitored? How frequently and by whom?

A Polling District and Polling Place Review will be held every 5 years by the Local Authority

26. How will the results of this monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

27. When will the proposal be reviewed?

The next review will be held in 2029/30

28. If the proposal is to be delivered wholly or partly by contractors, what arrangements are in place to ensure equality, human rights and environmental issues are properly considered?

Not applicable

Recommendation

29. What is your recommendation for the proposal?

- Adopt proposal with no amendments
- Adopt proposal with mitigating actions (outlined above)
- Reject proposal due to disproportionately negative impact on equality, human rights or the environment

30. Please give the reasoning behind your recommendation

- Include reference to any potential impact you have identified during the IIA process.
- **If you have not conducted a full impact assessment by completing all sections of this form, please explain why.**

Authorisation by Director/Chief Officer/Head of Service

Name and job title

Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Date

19/11/2024

Signature

Saty Kaur