

Equality and Children's Rights Integrated Screening Form

The public sector equality duty requires that we demonstrate that we are making decisions in a fair, transparent and accountable way. The Council must show that it has considered the needs and rights of people with protected characteristics. In addition, where decisions affect young people, we must consider the 'Rights of the Child', under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The duty requires that the Council assesses the 'equality impact' of proposals thoroughly before any decisions are taken. This should be proportionate to the decision that is being made. In addition, we must also ensure we are not impacting negatively on Human Rights or socio-economic status under the Fairer Scotland Duty.*

This form should assist in assessing whether a more detailed Equality and Children's Rights impact assessment is required.

A. Proposal				
Title	Solar PV Farms (Nethermaines and Shewalton)			
Budget reference number and heading if appropriate (or N/A).*	SP/PL/24/10 Proposed income from solar PV farms.			
Amount (£) of saving if appropriate (or N/A)	2024/25 (255,369)	2025/26 (244,542)	2026/27 11,933	Total (487,978)
	This is the estimated income from the sale of electricity generated from both solar PV farms combined.			
Service	Sustainability			
Lead Officer	Jennifer Wraith			
Others Involved	Gavin Lavery (Project Manager), David Hammond (Project Sponsor)			
Date Completed	29/01/2024			
1. What are the main aims of the proposal?				
<p>The solar PV farm project supports the Council's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Providing new, clean energy onto the local grid contributes to the effort to tackle climate change and as the developments are on former landfill sites, we are able to use land which could not otherwise be used for any other purpose.</p> <p>The income from the sale of renewable energy will help to support essential Council services, with 15% earmarked for community benefit projects.</p> <p>Climate Change is one the Council's priorities and maximising our renewable energy generation potential is vital to our journey towards net zero.</p>				
2. What data, research or other evidence was used for this screening?				
<p>A high level feasibility study and business case was prepared in June 2015, in order to identify the renewable energy potential across North Ayrshire.</p> <p>The business case was not financially viable at the time, due to the removal of the Feed In Tariff scheme. Following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency</p>				

in June 2019, and reduction in market prices, the business case was refreshed in 2020 by Arcadis.

In January 2021, Cabinet members approved the project. Planning permission was sought and granted, which required a series of surveys to be completed as evidence for the planning application.

Data analysis was completed for solar generation as part of the business case and furthermore, as part of the design process.

As part of the ongoing development of the project, research was undertaken by engaging with local authorities across the UK where solar farm initiatives had been undertaken.

3. Screening questions

	Yes	No
Does the proposal affect service users, employees or the wider community and specifically to services that are known to being important to particular protected groups?		X
Does the proposal have any relevance for Human and/or Children's Rights? (please see guidance)		X
Is it a major proposal, significantly affecting how services are delivered or how other organisations operate?		X
Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities or has significant potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes?		X

4. What is the impact of the (budget) proposal on equality groups?

Protected Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Comments
Age (young**/older people)	X			There will be education programmes as part of the contractor's community benefit requirements. This will serve to increase local renewables knowledge, skills and awareness, ultimately contributing to positive action against climate change. The very young and elderly are particularly vulnerable to the causes and impacts of climate change.
Disability (Physical & learning)	X			There will be education programmes as part of the contractor's community benefit requirements. This will serve to increase local

				renewables knowledge, skills and awareness, ultimately contributing to positive action against climate change. People with certain disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the causes and impacts of climate change.
Gender Re-assignment			X	
Pregnancy & Maternity	X			There will be education programmes as part of the contractor's community benefit requirements. This will serve to increase local renewables knowledge, skills and awareness, ultimately contributing to positive action against climate change. Those who are pregnant or the very young are particularly vulnerable to the causes and impacts of climate change.
Race & ethnic origin			X	
Religion or belief			X	
Sex			X	
Sexual Orientation			X	
Care Experienced			X	
Other (Poverty, homelessness, rural, carers, part-time workers, etc)	X			15% of net income is proposed for community benefit and may be used to support fuel poverty and zero carbon local initiatives. It has not been formally agreed what these initiatives will be.
Fairer Scotland Duty	X			15% of net income is proposed for community benefit and may be used to support fuel poverty and zero carbon local initiatives. It has not been formally agreed what these initiatives will be.
Human Rights			X	

5. The Fairer Scotland Duty – (reducing the socio-economic impact of our policies, strategies and budget decisions) Does the proposal have any negative (or potential) positive impacts that need to be explored in more detail? (please provide brief summary).	
As noted above, this is viewed to have an overall positive impact, with 15% of net income proposed for community benefit e.g. fuel poverty or net zero carbon initiatives. It has not been formally agreed what these initiatives will be.	
6. Island Proofing – Are there any special considerations for the Island Communities within North Ayrshire	
The benefits brought by the sale of energy will be available across the whole of North Ayrshire.	
7. Have any cross-cutting impact been identified from other Council Services or Partner Agencies (multiple discrimination or accumulated effects of multiple proposals)?	
No.	
8. If a negative impact has been identified how will you modify it?	
N/A	
9. Has there been any consultation on the (budget) proposal with any protected characteristic groups or other services or partner organisations?	
The budget was approved by Cabinet in January 2021.	
10. What are the monitoring and review arrangements?	
The Solar PV Board has been established, chaired by the Project Sponsor and attended by cross-service representatives on a monthly basis.	
11. What are the recommendations and further action resulting from this Equality Screening? (please explain)	
Full Equality Assessment (or) -	No
Full Equality Assessment and Children's Rights Impact required.	No Once the 15% community benefit initiatives have been developed, a full ECRIA will be considered.

B. Outcome of the Proposal	
Screening Only (Please Explain)	Yes – A screening shows there are no major impacts resulting from this proposal.
Full Assessment Required	A ECRIA will be produced separately regarding the Community Benefit elements of the proposal in the next stage.

Authorisation

Policy Lead/Manager: Jennifer Wraith

Date: 30/01/2024

Head of Service: David Hammond

Date: 30/01/2024

*If relating to a Budget proposal, the Full ECRIA should be attached to Committee Report and published on the Council's external website Equality pages

**If a potential impact is identified for people under the age of 18, the CRIA screening questions in Appendix 1 should be answered

Appendix 1 – Children's Rights Impact Screening Form

1. What aspects of the Policy/measure will affect children and young people?

(The articles of the UNCRC and the wellbeing indicators under the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 apply to all people under the age of 18, including non-citizen and undocumented children and young people). More information can be found –
(Appendix 1 of the full form)

[\(Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland\)](#)

- None

2. What Likely Impact (direct or indirect) will the policy have on children and young people – considering any positive, negative or neutral impacts.

(**Direct** impact, where changes directly impact the young person, e.g., education, child protection etc or **Indirect** Impact, where although not directly aimed at young people, will still have an impact, e.g., welfare reforms, parental leave, housing supply etc).

- Positive – the awareness programmes should help support positive action against climate change for our young people, supporting sustainability for current and future generations.

3. Are there particular groups of young people who are more likely to be affected than others?

('Children' can refer to individuals, groups or children in general, and can also be related to the range of characteristics under the Equality Act – disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also includes those that are eligible for special protection, including pre-school children, children in hospitals, rural areas, looked after children, victims of abuse, young people who offend, child asylum seekers, children living in poverty)

- No.