

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

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|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Subject of assessment: | Corporate Food Poverty Policy | | | |
| Coverage: | Cross cutting | | | |
| This is a decision relating to: | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Function |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> Programme | <input type="checkbox"/> Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Review |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisational change | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) | | |
| It is a: | New approach: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Revision of an existing approach: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| It is driven by: | Legislation: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local or corporate requirements: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Description: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key aims, objectives and activities ○ The policy sets out how the Council will provide a framework to help the council achieve its Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Priority to “address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.”; Provide a structured approach to ensuring a professional, consistent and timely response to the identification and resolution of food poverty across all of the Council’s functions; Fortify local partnership links including Middlesbrough Environment City’s Food Action Plan, Financial Inclusion Group and the Middlesbrough Food Partnership; and to improve long-term food security for the residents of Middlesbrough to reduce dependency on temporary food aid. ○ Statutory drivers (set out exact reference) ○ The Council has a statutory duty to make payments to Middlesbrough residents who are in crisis or hardship, or have experienced a disaster. The council also provides additional support to residents who fall within pre-defined situations. ○ There is no legal driver for food poverty support, but there is a responsibility to support those in need through specific Government funding or our responsibilities as a council to support vulnerable groups. ○ Differences from any previous approach ○ Previous solutions were inconsistent, and resulted duplication and variance in support. This will be rectified by the proposed policy ○ Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) ○ The key stakeholders include customers of council services, staff, local partners and national government. ○ Intended outcomes. ○ Promotion of understanding of the drivers of food poverty; ○ Ensuring employees and partners are confident in identifying a food need; ○ Creation and maintenance of clear signposting routes for residents experiencing food insecurity towards available immediate food aid; ○ Addressing the underlying poverty cause by providing clear navigation for residents who access any of the Council’s services presenting with an underlying food poverty situation, to be able to access existing council support mechanisms including the Welfare Strategy and associated financial assistance, advice and support; ○ Development of a multi-agency Food Poverty Action Plan (FPAA) to build long-term food security for Middlesbrough. | | | |
| Live date: | December 2022 | | | |
| Lifespan: | 3 years. This is the first iteration of the policy. It will be reviewed quarterly during the first year, | | | |
| Date of next review: | Full review is December 2025. An Informal review will take place in April 2023 (and quarterly until February 2024) to ensure it is operating as expected. If there are adverse findings that review will be formalised. | | | |

| Screening questions | Response | | | Evidence |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | No | Yes | Uncertain | |
| <p>Human Rights</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>This proposed policy is designed to ensure that the Council operates a more consistent and joined up approach to food poverty support, and considers the resident individual needs as a whole through a centralised offering. This policy is also designed to provide a support framework when responding to residents who present themselves to the service when in need and will be applied across all directorates.</p> <p>Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of the various circumstances of the resident, and current support provisions from various council services across the council, and engagement to date with senior officers who have been involved in the development of the policy and supporting detailed delivery plans.</p> <p>There are therefore no concerns that the policy could negatively impact on individual human rights as enshrined in UK legislation.</p> |
| <p>Equality</p> <p>Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>The proposed policy provides consistency and efficiency in the council's approach, whilst being mindful of a resident's situation. Liaison between the various supporting services is in place so that where a wider support delivery is required, or signposting to other services, this can be put into place quite quickly. The Food Poverty policy also links into the Council's overall Welfare Strategy and vulnerability policy, as well as the Council's Corporate Debt Management policy which supports Social Inclusion and a customer's ability to pay, should anyone presenting in crisis have any outstanding debt to the council.</p> <p>It is potentially relevant to all the protected characteristics. The aim of the policy is to address inequalities in outcomes experienced by residents / service users of the council when they are in crisis or require emergency support.</p> <p>This method of working is designed to understand the individual needs of the resident and ensure they get the support they are entitled to in a quick and easy manner. This will result in a more tailored service response, improving outcomes and the better identification of equality and fairness issues that may need to be addressed. There are no concerns that the policy could have a disproportionate adverse impact on individuals or groups because they hold one or more protected characteristics. The application of a case by case approach to crisis will support work to provide nuanced approaches.</p> |
| <p>Community cohesion</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>The proposed policy should provide a coordinated, joined up and consistent approach to food poverty, and includes arrangements for a single service (Resident & Business Support) coordinating support which will prevent inconsistencies across customers who access support.</p> <p>Where there may be any different needs because of a protected characteristic or geography, this joined up approach will help to develop follow up actions focussed on addressing those unequal impacts. There are no concerns that the policy could have an adverse impact on community cohesion.</p> |

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

| Screening questions | Response | Evidence |
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| <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed. | | |

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| Assessment completed by: | Nicola Mearns | Head of Service: | Janette Savage |
| Date: | 05/12/22 | Date: | 05/12/22 |