

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Chief Executive
Relevant Executive Member:	Mayor
Submitted to:	Single Member Executive – The Mayor
Date:	1 May 2025
Title:	Impact Assessment Policy
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
Subject to call in?	Yes
Why:	The report is not urgent.

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That the Mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPROVES the revised Impact Assessment Policy.

Executive summary
<p>The report proposes a revision to the Council's Impact Assessment policy, in response to a recommendation from the recent poverty sprint, that the Council should embed systematic consideration of the impact of its decisions on poverty in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>The report sets out that this revision will support the Council to deliver its commitment within the Council Plan that reducing poverty will be at the heart of everything we do as this is central to all of the ambitions within the Council Plan. The Council could choose not to amend the Impact Assessment Policy, however it would be missing an opportunity to embed an approach that would champion a consistent, considered approach that would support delivery of its aim of reducing poverty.</p> <p>A revised Impact Assessment Policy is appended for consideration.</p>

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out a proposed revised Impact Assessment Policy.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	<p>Ensuring the Council considers the impact of its decisions against its commitment to reducing poverty, it will ensure that decisions that are brought forward with the aim of delivering the aims within this ambition, consider their impact on positive within plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities - Improve attainment in education and skills - Ensure housing provision meets local demand.
A healthy Place	<p>Revision of the policy will support the Council to deliver the underpinning aim within this theme 'reducing poverty'.</p> <p>It is proposed to revise the policy to include a commitment to assess the impact of Council decision-making on its commitment within the Council Plan 2024-2027, that reducing poverty will be at the heart of everything we do as this is central to all of the ambitions within the Council Plan.</p>
Safe and resilient communities	<p>Ensuring the Council considers the impact of its decisions against its commitment to reducing poverty, it will ensure that decisions that are brought forward with the aim of delivering the aims within this ambition, consider their impact on positive within plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support adults to be independent for longer - improve transport and digital connectivity - promote new ideas and community initiatives - reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
Delivering best value	<p>Ensuring the Council considers the impact of its decisions against its commitment to reducing poverty, it will ensure that decisions that are brought forward with the aim of delivering the aims within this ambition, consider their impact on positive within plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure robust and effective corporate governance - set a balanced revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Plan to restore financial resilience and sustainability.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Mayor:

- **APPROVES** the revised Impact Assessment Policy.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 Putting in place a systematic approach to assessing the impact of the Council's decision-making on its ambition to reduce poverty, will ensure that there is an improved focus on this within decision-making processes.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 Regular reviews of policies are required to ensure that they:

- are continuing to meet the needs of the organisation,
- reflect case law that impacts on impact assessment processes
- continue to reflect best practice.

- 4.2 The Impact Assessment policy is scheduled for review every three years. It is not yet due to be reviewed, however an interim review is proposed to enable the Council to systematically assess the impact of its decision-making on its underpinning ambition of reducing poverty, which cuts across all of the Council Plan ambitions. This was one of the actions identified from a recent poverty sprint held by the Council with partners to identify the steps that could be taken to maximise whole-Council, cross-policy, cross-strategy action to drive real change to poverty in Middlesbrough.

- 4.3 Steps have also been taken to amend the committee report format template to ensure that it has a section which will set out the impact of proposed decisions on the reducing poverty aim.

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 5.1 The Council could choose not to amend the Impact Assessment Policy, however it would be missing an opportunity to embed an approach that would champion a consistent, considered approach that would support delivery of its aim of reducing poverty.

6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no direct implications arising as a result of this report.
Legal	As set out previously, the policy has been put in place to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality duty.
Risk	<p>The policy positively impacts on the following risks within the Council's Strategic Risk Register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Governance is not fit for purpose - Unlawful decision by the Council

	- Threats to social cohesion and democratic resilience.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	This policy will ensure that the Council continues to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. A stage one Impact assessment has been completed (appended to this report at Appendix 2) which found that the policy would have a positive impact, ensuring there continues to be a framework in place to ensure decisions taken by the Council have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
Reducing poverty	The revised impact assessment policy will include consideration of this theme, impacting positively on the Council's ability to ensure that proposed decisions have an appropriate focus on the impact they can have on reducing poverty.
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no direct implications arising as a result of this report.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The policy will continue to ensure the impact of Council decision-making on this group is considered within the impact assessment process.
Data Protection	There are no direct implications arising as a result of this report.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Publish the revised policy	Head of Governance, Information and Policy	May 2025
Delivery of training sessions to report authors on the additional requirements and updated e-learning to address this as well as signposting to data sources to assist authors to assess the impact of their decisions.	Head of Governance, Information and Policy	June 2025

Appendices

1	Impact Assessment Policy and supporting toolkit
2	Impact assessment (current template)

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Corporate Equality and Inclusion Policies – triennial refresh	20 March 2024

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