

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability



Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability

Title of Policy/ Proposal	Implementation of Pest Control Treatment Service
Completion Date	13 th April 2016
Completed by	Derek Oliver
Lead officer	Derek Oliver

Type of Initiative:

Policy/Strategy

Programme/Plan

Project

Service

Function

Other

New or Proposed

Changing/Updated

Review or existing

1. Briefly describe the policy/proposal you are assessing.

Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the policy being developed or reviewed (e.g. objectives, aims) including the context within which it will operate.

As part of a review of the Environmental Health Service, chargeable activities, including the proposal to establish a pest control treatment service, have been identified to generate income, in order to preserve, maximise and augment frontline service delivery.

The implementation of a pest control treatment service is discretionary. It is a service provided by most local authorities, particularly targeting those pests considered a public health risk, such as rats and mice. Treatment is a separate issue to enforcement of statutory pest control legislation that remains a duty on the Council.

The Council is not required to undertake pest control treatment but, if it chooses to do so, there is no requirement to offer this service free of charge.

Together with relevant charges, a concessionary rate has been introduced for Pest Control treatment. Charges for services will be reduced by 50% for domestic occupiers who are in receipt of the following, to maximise access of the service and ensure treatment of pests is not cost prohibitive: Housing Benefit, Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Universal Credit, Pension Credit.

Local residents and businesses requiring services currently use private sector pest control companies.

It is proposed that should council house tenants of East Lothian Council utilise this pest control service, residents will receive this service free at the point of delivery, with costs recovered internally from the relevant Housing Services.

2. What will change as a result of this policy?

Through the implementation of a Pest Control treatment service and associated charges, East Lothian Council is introducing choice to its residents, whilst sustaining communities in introducing concessionary rates.

3. Do I need to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment?

High Relevance	Yes/no
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people	Yes
2. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality	No
3. The policy/ proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	No
4. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental	No

impact	
Low Relevance	
5. The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	
6. The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	
7. The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	
If you have identified low relevance please give a brief description of your reasoning here and send it to your Head of Service to record.	

If you have answered yes to 1, 2, or 3 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment.

If you have identified that your project will have a significant environmental impact (4), you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4. What information/data/ consultation have you used to inform the policy to date?

Evidence	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?															
Data on populations in need	This service will be open to residents and businesses within East Lothian. Levels of pest control calls cannot be forecasted given the sporadic and variable dependent factors that impact on pest species behaviour.															
Data on service uptake/access	An exercise was undertaken whereby statistics from Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils provided numbers of calls and charges levied. <table border="1" data-bbox="703 1765 1225 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rats / Mice</th> <th>Wasps</th> <th>Other Pests</th> <th>Total Enquiries</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>West Lothian</td> <td>507</td> <td>856</td> <td>460</td> <td>1823</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scottish</td> <td>761</td> <td>226</td> <td>228</td> <td>1215</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rats / Mice	Wasps	Other Pests	Total Enquiries	West Lothian	507	856	460	1823	Scottish	761	226	228	1215
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Data on quality/outcomes	A pest control service delivered by the Council provides choice to its communities and the charges levied are fair and reasonable.																										
Research/literature evidence	Benchmarking with Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils.																										
Service user experience information	N/A																										
Consultation and involvement findings	No consultation was deemed necessary in accordance with the Council's Charging Policy.																										
Good practice guidelines																											
Other (please specify)																											
Is any further information required? How will you gather this?	Ongoing benchmarking will be carried out to ensure the Service operates as efficiently and effectively as possible.																										

5. How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community?

	Issues identified and how the strategy addresses these
Equality Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people, people in the middle 	

<p>years,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people and children • Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity) • Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems) • Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers) • Refugees and asylum seekers • People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief) • Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people • People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership 	<p>Elderly persons in receipt of pension credit will receive pest services at a concessionary rate</p> <p>Disabled persons in receipt of benefits will receive pest services at a concessionary rate.</p> <p>Should East Lothian Council Housing Services wish to utilise the pest control service, council tenants will receive pest services free at point of delivery, with internal recharges processed accordingly.</p>
<p>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • People on benefits • Single Parents and vulnerable families • Pensioners 	<p>A concessionary rate is proposed to ensure a service to tackle pests can be accessed by persons falling within this category.</p> <p>Should East Lothian Council Housing Services wish to utilise the pest control service, council tenants</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after children • Those leaving care settings (including children and young people and those with illness) • Homeless people • Carers (including young carers) • Those involved in the community justice system • Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas) • People misusing services • People with low literacy/numeracy • Others e.g. veterans, students 	<p>will receive pest services free at point of delivery, with internal recharges processed accordingly.</p>
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi rural communities • Urban Communities • Coastal communities 	<p>Applicable across all of the East Lothian Council area.</p>

6. Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?

With its public health significance, pest control is embedded within the remit of the Environmental Health Service. A new post is necessary to reflect the supervisory, budgetary and operational nature of a Pest Control Supervisor.

7. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

It is not envisaged that contractors will be utilised. However, should there be an unprecedented rise in pest issues at a particular period of the year, we would ensure that this aspect is considered ahead of any agreement being finalised.

8. Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?

Information pertaining to charges will be available on the East Lothian Council website and paperwork will be provided at the time of a pest control visit. Attention will be afforded for those whose first language is not English, utilising Council Interpretation and Translation Services, where necessary and appropriate.

9. Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?

Objectives	Comments
Equality and Human rights	
Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services, status	A concessionary rate ensures the service is accessible to all.
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self control over decisions	The service provides the communities with choice.
Builds family support networks, resilience and community capacity	

Reduces crime and fear of crime	
Promotes healthier lifestyles including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diet and nutrition, • sexual health, • substance misuse • Exercise and physical activity. • Lifeskills 	Pests can pose a public health risk, therefore offering a control and treatment service ensures a healthier and safer living and working environment.
Environmental	
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in East Lothian (including carbon management)	Promotes use of recognised and safe pesticides, used in a controlled manner.
Plan for future climate change	
Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	
Protect coastal and inland waters	
Enhance biodiversity	
Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals)	
Public Safety: Minimise waste generation/ infection control/ accidental injury /fire risk	
Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms or transport	
Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	
Economic	
Maximises income and /or reduces income inequality	Provides choice to residents and businesses throughout the Council area. A responsive service can engage with

Helps young people into positive destinations	business to ensure local economy is supported, with information and translation available to those requiring support.
Supports local business	
Helps people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	
Improving literacy and numeracy	
Improves working conditions, including equal pay	
Improves local employment opportunities	

10. Action Plan

Identified negative impact	Mitigating circumstances	Mitigating actions	Timeline	Responsible person
Costs to users	Costs may deter people from contacting the service; Concessionary rate would benefit members of the community	Concessionary rate proposed Costs and uptake of service will be frequently monitored	From commencement of the Service	Derek Oliver

11. Sign off by Head of Service

Name

Date