

Supporting Good Decisions

**Promoting Equality and Human Rights;
Reducing Poverty; and
Protecting the Environment**

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability

Title of Policy/ Proposal	Charging for Road Construction Consents (RCCs)
Completion Date	01/09/2022
Completed by	Habiba Mimi
Lead officer	Ian Lennox Marshall Greenshields

Type of Initiative:

- Policy/Strategy
- ✓ New or Proposed Programme/Plan
- Changing/Updated
- ✓ Review or existing Service
- Function
- Other

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.

Whilst there can be a number of reasons for reviewing public provision, often the key driver is a financial one – savings to the local authority, a means of stabilising costs, or a means of securing alternative sources of savings (charging for use of provision).

Currently the Roads department does road construction consent work free of charge to developers. This project proposes to charge for this service to recover the costs East Lothian council incurs.

Considering the financial context and current demand for this service there is need to take a commercial approach introducing charges for processing and issuing RCCs.

objectives, aims) including the context within which it will operate.

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

The overall goal of this project is to implement the preferred option (Charging per metre of road) to process and recover costs through introducing charges for Road Construction Consents (RCC) in order to deliver anticipated cost recovery and benefits, whilst minimising dis-benefits and mitigating identified risks.

To be customer-focused in all we do as a Council and to use our commercial opportunities to support our developers, clients, communities, stakeholders and markets (acting as developers). This proposal explores introducing charges for Road Construction Consents (RCC) in the most efficient, effective and commercial way.

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

High Relevance	Yes/no
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people	No
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 impact	No
Low Relevance	
5. The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	yes
6. The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	Yes
7. The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	yes
<p>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.</p> <p>The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, explicitly allows a councils to charge a developer for all reasonable costs associated with entry and inspection of roads and their associated infrastructure. As a result the majority of councils have traditionally limited their charging to the onsite inspections required to control construction and design standards of roads to be adopted by the Roads Authority for public uses.</p>	

Under the [Road Scotland Act 1984 Section 140\(6\)](#) ELC is entitled to recover reasonable expenses for inspecting and remediating work carried out under an RCC and also ‘ascertaining whether any work required to be done by or under this Act ... has been done’.

Via the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, local authorities are granted the power to Impose reasonable charges for anything done by the authority under section 20. Section 20 includes the power of doing anything which is considered likely to promote or improve well-being.

This approach is also supported by the established ELC Charging Policy which is predicated on the Best Value principles of:

- 1. The users of a service should pay for the delivery of the service, unless it is fully universally accessed.*
- 2. A service provided to commercial organisations should operate on a cost recovery basis as a minimum.*
- 3. A service that is not universally accessed by all residents or delivered to support residents facing disadvantage, should not be subsidised through local and general tax contributions.*

Therefore services such as processing and issuing RCCs should not be paid for out of general service budgets. Considering the above, RCC charges sit low in terms of relative social and economic impact.

If you have answered yes to 1, 2, or 3 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment. Not Required

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	
Data on service uptake/access	

Data on quality/outcomes	
Research/literature evidence	
Service user experience information	
Consultation and involvement findings	
Good practice guidelines	
Other (please specify)	
Is any further information required? How will you gather this?	

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

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • People on benefits • Single Parents and vulnerable families • Pensioners • 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>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi rural communities 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Communities• Coastal communities	
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6. Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?

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

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contract?

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?

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	
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self control over decisions	
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 	
Environmental	
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in East Lothian (including carbon management)	
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 of transport	
Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	
Economic	
Maximises income and /or reduces income inequality	
Helps young people into positive destinations	
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

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11. Sign off by Head of Service

Name – Tom Reid

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Reid', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 1/9/22