

**Supporting Good Decisions**

**Promoting Equality and Human Rights;**

**Reducing Poverty; and**

**Protecting the Environment**

**Integrated Impact Assessment Form**

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**Promoting Equality and Human Rights;**

**Reducing Poverty; and Protecting the Environment**

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| **Title of Policy/ Proposal** | Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme |
| **Timescale for Implementation** | 2025 to 2035 |
| **IIA Completion Date** | 22 / 09 / 2025 |
| **Completed by** | Ian Chalmers |
| **Lead officer** | Alan Stubbs |

\*An Environmental Impact Assessment (*EIA) has been ongoing since the outline design commenced, and that it considered impacts on population, human health, visual impact etc.*

**Section 1: Screening**

**1.1 Briefly describe the policy/proposal/activity you are assessing.**

The proposal is to construct a flood protection scheme for Musselburgh. The Scheme is being promoted under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and aims to protect the town from a 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event from the River Esk and the coast. The town has a history of flooding and is identified as a potentially vulnerable area within the Local Flood Risk Management for the Forth Estuary planning district.

* 1. **What will change as a result of this policy?**

The proposed Scheme comprises flood defence walls, embankments, culverts, replacement bridges, surface water pumping stations, debris management, reservoir modifications, river restoration and public realm improvements. If constructed, this will result in a change to the built environment in the following locations:

* the River Esk and its riverbanks between Eskmills weir and the mouth of the River Esk;
* the coastline between the Brunstane Burn and Morrisons Haven;
* Pinkie St Peters playing fields;
* The Mill Lade at Eskmills;
* The River Esk by Whitecraigs, within Dalkeith Country Park; and
* Rosebery and Edgelaw Reservoirs.

The changes to the built environment will have the potential to impact people who view, access and interact with the water environment at these locations.

* 1. **Deciding if a full Impact Assessment is needed.**

Please answer the following questions:

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|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people e.g. how they can access a service? | X |  |
| 1. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality and human rights, socio-economic disadvantage, the council’s role as a corporate parent, children’s rights, or the council’s commitment to tackling climate change? | X |  |
| 1. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact as defined by the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005? | X |  |
| 1. The policy/ proposal involves a data processing activity (storage / collection of personal data) that is likely to result in a high risk to individuals as determined by Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation? | X |  |

* If you have answered yes to questions 1 and 2 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment. If you have answered No then an IIA does not need to be completed. Please keep a copy of the screening paperwork.
* If you have answered yes to question 3, you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
* If you have answered yes to question 4, you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment. Please seek further advice from the Team Manager Information Governance.

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**Section 2: Integrated Impact Assessment**

* 1. **Have those who are directly affected by the policy had the opportunity to comment on new proposals?**

The Council commenced its public engagement on the Scheme in February 2018 with a ‘call for information’ day. This was followed by a two-day exhibition in July 2019. Public engagement was interrupted in March 2020 by the COVID pandemic but recommenced in September 2021 with a series of seven online local area consultation meetings. Further local area meetings took place in-person during February and March 2022, and again in February and April 2023. One-to-one drop-in sessions were held weekly from February to June 2023 in the Brunton Theatre. A second two-day public exhibition was held in June 2023.

The Scheme was notified in March 2024. In accordance with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, the public had a minimum of 28 days to inspect the proposals and submit objections. The Council subsequently offered one-to-one meetings with all those who had objected, and 54 objectors accepted this offer. These meetings took place between November 2024 and May 2025. The project team also facilitated a public meeting with representatives from a number of secondary schools at an event in February 2024.

The public had the opportunity to contribute in a variety of ways depending upon the nature and format of each event, with accessible options throughout. This included asking questions at town hall meetings, leaving post-it notes on design proposals at workshops, completing feedback questionnaires at exhibitions, and submitting objections when the scheme was notified. The public could also contact the project team via a dedicated email which was promoted at public events and through a newsletter and public notice boards erected throughout the town.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was published alongside the Scheme in March 2024 and considered impacts on Population and Human Health, Noise and Vibration, Townscape, Land Contamination, Air Quality, Cultural Heritage and the Cumulative Effects of the Scheme, amongst others – the public and other stakeholders had the opportunity to make a representation on the EIA report by 24 April 2024.

* 1. **What information/data have you used to inform the development of the policy to date?**

The design of the Scheme has been informed by the development of a comprehensive flood model. The model was constructed with industry-standard Flood Modeller software, using established methodology and a detailed topographic survey of the River Esk and its floodplain. River flow data from SEPA’s gauging station in the town was assessed together with a hydrological assessment of the River Esk catchment. The potential effects of climate change on Musselburgh’s flood risk were incorporated into the model by using the UK Government’s latest climate change projections (UKCP18) for sea level rise, peak rainfall intensity and peak river flow.

A series of baseline model runs for the present-day and future-with-climate-change were then conducted for return periods from 1 in 1-year (100% AEP) to 1 in 1000-year (0.1% AEP) flood events. The flood extent and number of properties affected were thus determined for each event.

An option appraisal was conducted to determine the ‘Preferred Scheme’ that would be capable of delivering a 1 in 200-year (0.5% AEP) standard of protection to the town.

Feedback from public engagement events and meetings with statutory stakeholders was used to refine the Preferred Scheme into an outline design. An Environmental Impact Assessment of the outline design was conducted, which also led to refinement of the design. The finalised outline design was notified in March 2024.

* 1. **What does the evidence/ research suggest about the policy’s actual or likely impact on equality groups and those vulnerable/ or experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?**

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| **Evidence** | **Comment** |
| Which groups are in particular need of this service? | In the order of 900 properties are currently at flood risk from a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) event, and this is projected to increase to in the order of 3000 properties by 2100 as a result of climate change (1 in 200 year + climate change event).  Flooding has the potential to disproportionately affect protected and vulnerable groups that have less resilience to recover from such events. Relevant groups include older people, disabled people, and those vulnerable to falling into poverty. |
| What level of service uptake/ access is there from protected and vulnerable groups? | 21,695 people live in the Musselburgh Ward, which accounts for 19.3% of the county’s population. (Scotland’s Census 2022). |
| Can you identify positive outcomes for service users | All properties inside the projected flood extent will have significantly reduced flood risk as a result of the scheme and will be protected from all fluvial and coastal flood events up to and including the 0.5% AEP event. There will be increased flood resilience within the community and it is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on insurance premiums. |
| What is the service user experience of those from protected or vulnerable groups? | Although there would be construction impacts, the outcome would provide a significantly reduced flood risk to protected or vulnerable groups. |
| What opportunity have those from protected groups had to co-produce or comment on the service/ plans? | The Scheme’s extensive public engagement programme has included a variety of accessible events in different formats and locations over a six-year period. This was intended to maximise the opportunity for those who wished to comment on the proposals to do so. Nevertheless, it is recognised that due to the complex technical nature of flood risk management, there has been less opportunity for individuals to ‘co-produce’ the design with the Council’s design consultants. Notwithstanding this, feedback from the public has demonstrably led to changes in the outline design. This includes changes to the form, position and height of defences as well as reductions in the environmental impact of the Scheme. |

* 1. **How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community? Please note that where children will be affected by the policy or activity a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact assessment must additionally be completed.** [Children’s Rights and Well-being Impact Assessment - completion guidance and template | East Lothian Intranet](https://intranet.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/1214/children_s_rights_and_well-being_impact_assessment_-_completion_guidance_and_template)

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| **Equality Groups** | **Comments** |
| Older people, people in the middle years | Accessibility measures will be incorporated within the detailed design of the Scheme such that they are suitable for all users in accordance with relevant design standards. This will include the provision of ramps, steps, seating and amenity spaces. Consultation has taken place over a number of years, including in person events and objector meetings to allow the public to feed in any issues with regards to equality and older people. |
| Children and young people children | The needs of children and young people will be incorporated within the detailed design of the Scheme. This will include the design of amenity spaces and measures to address visual impact. A Children’s Rights Impact Assessment will be completed where required.  Consultation has taken place over a number of years, including in person events and objector meetings to allow the public to feed in any issues with regards to young people; there was specifically an engagement event at a school in 2024. |
| Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity) | The safety of women and girls in public spaces will be incorporated within the detailed design of the Scheme. This will include appropriate lighting and reducing the potential for secluded areas within the urban landscape. The design will include the provision of ramps, steps, seating and amenity spaces, which will assist those who are pregnant and/or parents with small children. Consultation has taken place over a number of years, including in person events and objector meetings to allow the public to feed in any issues. |
| Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems) | Accessibility measures will be incorporated within the detailed design of the Scheme such that they are suitable for all users in accordance with relevant design standards. This will include the provision of ramps, steps, seating and amenity spaces. Consultation has taken place over a number of years, including in person events and objector meetings to allow the public to feed in any issues with regards to disability. |
| Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers) | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| Refugees and asylum seekers | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief) | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| **Those vulnerable to falling into poverty**   * Unemployed * People on benefits * Lone Parents * Care experienced children and young people * Carers (including young carers) * Homeless people * Those involved in the community justice system * People with low literacy/numeracy * Families with 3 or more children * Those with a child/ children under 1 | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| **Geographical communities**   * Rural/ semi-rural communities * Urban Communities * Coastal communities * Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas) | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |
| **People with communication needs:**   * Gaelic Language Speakers {refer if necessary to the Council’s Gaelic Language Plan} * British Sign Language (BSL) users {refer if necessary to the Council’s BSL Plan} * English as a Second Language * Other e.g. Deafblind, Plain English, Large Print | The proposals are not considered to negatively impact the different needs of these groups. |

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

No

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

The Scheme is being designed by consultants and will be constructed by contractors. Elements of the Scheme could potentially be operated and/or maintained by contractors. Equality and human rights considerations will be incorporated into the relevant contracts at the appropriate time.

* 1. **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?**

The proposals are described in written format on the Scheme’s website and in hard copy at the council’s offices. Documents can be translated into other languages upon request. For documents within the Council’s web pages, the “ReciteMe” tool can speak text via a computer, which can also translate languages.

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

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| **Equality and Human rights**   * Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services * Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment * Promotes participation, is inclusive and gives people control over decisions which affect them * Preserves dignity and self-respect of individuals (does not lead to degrading treatment or stigma) * Builds support networks, resilience, community capacity |
| Comments:  Reducing Musselburgh’s flood risk is anticipated to:   * Support growth and investment in the local community and town centre * Promote accessibility of amenity spaces * Increase access to affordable home insurance * Have a positive impact on property values |
| **Socio-Economic Disadvantage / reducing poverty**   * Maximises income and/or reduces income inequality * Helps young people into positive destinations * Aids those returning to and those progressing within the labour market * Improves employability skills, including literacy and numeracy * Reduces the costs of taking part in activities and opportunities * Reduces the cost of living |
| Comments:  Construction of the Scheme, and the corresponding reduction in flood risk is anticipated to:   * Provide job opportunities during the construction phase * Increase access to affordable home insurance * Have a positive impact on property values * Promote growth and investment in the local community and town centre |
| **Tackling Climate Change**   * Reduces the need to travel or increases access to sustainable forms of transport * Minimises waste / encourages resource efficiency / contributes to the circular economy * Ensures goods / services are from ethical, responsible and sustainable sources * Improves energy efficiency / uses low carbon energy sources * Protects and/or enhances natural environments / habitats / biodiversity * Promotes the transition to a low carbon economy * Prepares and/or adapts communities for climate change impacts |
| Comments:  The Scheme will adapt the community to become more resistant and resilient to climate-change induced flooding. The design will provide biodiversity enhancement in accordance with NPF4, including river restoration, wetland creation and promotion of sustainable sand dune development. |
| **Corporate Parenting and Care Experienced Young People**   * Impacts on care experienced young people * Provides opportunities or reduces opportunities to participate in activities which are designed to promote the wellbeing of young people * Adversely affects the wellbeing of young people * Adversely impacts on outcomes for care experienced young people |
| Comments:  The Scheme is not anticipated to have any effect on corporate parenting and care experienced young people. |

**Section 3. Action Plan**

What, if any changes will be made to the proposal/ policy as a result of the assessment?

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| **Changes to be made** | **Expected outcome of the change** | **Resources Required** | **Timeline** | **Responsible person** |
| Accessibility | Accessibility for protected groups such as the elderly and disabled people will be incorporated within the detailed design. This will include ramp gradients, landings, path widths, frequency of seating, and choice of surfaces within amenity spaces. | Jacobs | Detailed Design phase | Jacobs |
| Visual Impact | Visual impact for protected groups such as children and young people will be incorporated within the detailed design. This will include raised footpaths adjacent to defences and glass panels within flood defence walls. | Jacobs | Detailed Design phase | Jacobs |
| Safety | Safety of women and girls in public spaces will be incorporated within the detailed design. This will include appropriate lighting and, wherever possible, ensuring that new public spaces are overlooked and not secluded. | Jacobs | Detailed Design phase | Jacobs |
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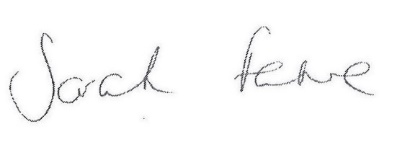
**For consideration of the Head of Service**

Can you identify any cumulative impacts on equality groups or vulnerable people arising from this policy, when considered alongside other changes across other services?

It should be considered that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the Scheme and that this document fully considers the cumulative effects of the Scheme, including on equality groups and vulnerable groups. This EIA has 17 chapters, which cover, amongst others, impacts on Population and Human Health, Noise and Vibration, Townscape, Land Contamination, Air Quality, Cultural Heritage and the Cumulative Effects of the Scheme. This EIA was published on 21 March 2024 and any person wishing to make any representation on the EIA report was able to do so by 24 April 2024. 17 pieces of correspondence were classed as EIA representations. The Project Team has undertaken meetings with those that wrote EIA representations in the period between April 2024 and September 2025, with other meetings to be arranged.

**Sign off by Head of Service**

Name: SARAH FORTUNE – Executive Director for Council Resources



Date: 22/09/2025