

FALKIRK COUNCIL – EQUALITY & POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - WEBSITE PUBLICATION SUMMARY

POLICY DETAILS		
TITLE	Increased Bereavement Service Charges 2014/15	
LEAD OFFICER	David Crighton	Email:David.Crighton@falkirk.gov.uk
EPIA COMPLETION DATE	30th January 2014	
Description of Policy / Proposal / Change		
<p>In order to maintain current levels of service and meet expected increases in costs the charging system for interments and cremations is to be amended.</p> <p>Falkirk Council remains one of the most competitive local authorities for burial charges and even with the proposed increase in charges for 2014/15 is still maintaining a lower market values for burial costs than the majority of Scottish Local Authorities. This provides best value and choice for Falkirk Council citizens.</p>		
Issues identified		
<p>From examining the impact of this proposal the Council will continue to provide 'no cost' interments / cremations for citizens below the age of 19 years. The Council compares favourably with other local authorities who make a charge for different levels of age group. We determined whether or not the increase and charge and proposed differential charging between interments / cremations would have a difference on local faith groups. In January 2014, a wide group of stakeholders from local clergy, faith groups, funeral directors, Humanism Scotland, memorial masons etc were invited to a public consultation of future Bereavement Services in the Falkirk Council area. In the course of the consultation limited discussion on incentivising cremation costs over burial costs was discussed under future burial ground capacity. Feedback provided, suggests people will continue to choose (burial or cremation) on the basis of their personal intentions.</p>		
Assessment findings		
<p>Highlighted how competitive Falkirk Council current charges were and the scope to levy an increase to bring them more into alignment with other neighbouring authorities but still maintain a level of best value. Choice will still be available for this service since the provision of burial will continue to meet the needs and preference of individuals and faith groups. This is further supported with the service commitment to explore new burial ground and cemetery extensions.</p>		
Actions / Recommendations		
<p>The Councils work on maximising income to Falkirk communities this will help negate any potential financial impact which may disproportionately impact on any of the equality protected groups. Opportunities being explored to hold an annual forum with a joint faiths group to provide ongoing and effective communication between the service and its users/stakeholders.</p>		
EPIA review date (if applicable)		
For further information or a copy of the full assessment please contact the officer above. Assessment can be made available in alternative formats or languages on request		

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POLICY DETAILS	
TITLE	DV 4 - Introducing Car Parking Charges at Municipal Blds, Falkirk public car park
LEAD OFFICER	Russell Steedman Email: Russell.steedman@falkirk.gov.uk
EPIA COMPLETION DATE	09/01/2014
Description of Policy / Proposal / Change	
<p>Proposal being considered to increase income. The effect will be to introduce a charge where currently there is none.</p> <p>The results from the statutory consultation will provide feedback from current and potential users of parking.</p>	
Issues identified	
<p>The introduction of car parking charges will, it is estimated, impact on different groups of people e.g. Monday to Friday is likely to be people who work in the town centre or who are coming to Municipal Buildings for a purpose. Parking charges on a Saturday will likely have an impact on shoppers and people / visitors using the town centre. There will be no charges on a Sunday.</p>	
Assessment findings	
<p>Given that this is a new charge it is difficult to determine what the likely impact will be. Therefore the results of statutory consultation will provide additional information to inform the decision to introduce this charge.</p> <p>Protecting parking for blue badge holders will ensure that the needs of disabled drivers are preserved therefore the view is that this option is considered low impact.</p>	
Actions / Recommendations	
<p>The charging structure will be set using the principles within the Council Charging and Concession Policy This assessment of 'low impact' will be revisited after consultation has taken place</p>	
EPIA review date (if applicable)	September 2014
<p>For further information or a copy of the full assessment please contact the officer above. Assessment can be made available in alternative formats or languages on request</p>	

FALKIRK COUNCIL – EQUALITY & POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - WEBSITE PUBLICATION SUMMARY

POLICY DETAILS	
TITLE	DV 8 – Removal of additional bus contract subsidy
LEAD OFFICER	Julie Cole Email: julie.cole@falkirk.gov.uk
EPIA COMPLETION DATE	31/01/2014
Description of Policy / Proposal / Change	
This subsidy is provided to First East Scotland Ltd and is used to provide financial support in the operation of bus routes which struggle to maintain commercial viability.	
Issues identified	
A review of public transport and alternative ways of operating services was undertaken and completed in January 2013 which was reported to Members in February 2013. This review combined with data captured on numbers using the service is used to make a decision about removing the subsidy arrangement.	
Assessment findings	
There is limited scope to determine the level of equality impact as this might affect service users. The data which is gathered is limited to raw usage numbers since access to bus services is universally available to everyone and therefore is not available by 'protected characteristic'	
Where the usage is shown to be falling this raises questions about the viability of route.	
Actions / Recommendations	
EPIA review date (if applicable)	September 2014
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