

CHILD RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT – STAGE 1 SCREENING

1. Name the policy, and describe its overall aims.

The Infrastructure Investment Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26 (IIP) sets the strategic framework for the infrastructure investment the Scottish Government and its public bodies will make over the coming 5 years – from 2021-22. It also provides details of the major projects and programmes the Scottish Government plans to invest in.

The plan sets out a clear vision for our future infrastructure – to support and enable an inclusive net zero emissions economy.

2. What aspects of the policy/measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

It is expected that there will be positive impacts for children and young people from the introduction of a new approach to infrastructure investment.

We have adopted a common, single vision for all our infrastructure investment choices:

“Our Infrastructure supports Scotland’s resilience and enables inclusive, net zero, and sustainable growth”.

Underpinning this vision are three supporting themes:

- **Enabling the transition to Net Zero Emissions and Environmental Sustainability**
- **Driving Inclusive Economic Growth**
- **Building Resilient and Sustainable Places**

Our approach to infrastructure must create opportunities for all, and seek to distribute the dividends of increased prosperity fairly, resulting in benefits for children and young people. We will prioritise investments that deliver improved outcomes against more than one, and preferably all three, themes.

The IIP is a strategic framework document. Its role is to provide a single vision and clear set of priorities to steer the selection of projects and programmes that we invest in so that they reflect the importance placed on delivering inclusivity and tackling inequalities, in order to maximise improvements to the quality of life of people facing most disadvantage.

Our focus will therefore be on ensuring that our investment in infrastructure prioritises projects and programmes that:

1. support progress towards our national outcomes – identified using the most relevant aspects of the National Performance Framework – and tackle inequality in outcomes between different groups;
2. are based on a sound understanding of the diversity of likely future community needs and how the places we live in and the way we live might change (informed by demographic, climate change and future technological projections and trends, as outlined in the IIP); and
3. are supported by decisions under a new common investment hierarchy described in the IIP which prioritises maintaining and enhancing existing assets.

The IIP will support Scotland’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out how we will build back better by focusing on the following shifts in our capital investment, to seek to address the economic, health and social impacts:

- Investing in digital connectivity to help businesses, workers and service users to accelerate the uptake of digital services and reduce the need to travel
- Supporting safe active travel and local, accessible public services in vibrant places to sustain local communities
- Supporting green and blue spaces to provide access to nature
- Investing in local business opportunities and job-creation to preserve and generate employment to support economic recovery

3. What likely impact – direct or indirect – will the policy/measure have on children and young people?

The Infrastructure Investment Plan itself will not have any direct impact on children and young people as it is a strategic framework document aimed at businesses and the public sector who will be delivering the infrastructure projects using the approach set out in the plan. However, individual investments included in the plan may have an impact and these will be assessed for each project or programme in line with the guidance.

Moreover, the approach adopted in the IIP will indirectly impact children and young people. We believe that these impacts will be positive by creating the conditions in which children and young people can thrive and supporting progress towards our ambitious child poverty targets.

For example.

- By providing more responsive transport provision and boosting country-wide digital connectivity and capacity, we will help provide more flexible travel opportunities and enable more people to engage with the digital economy. We consider that these changes will be of benefit to everyone although the benefits to children and young people include having improved access to good quality digital communication signals.
- Infrastructure investment in many sectors could help address the barriers that exist for some people in the labour market. For example, investment in new childcare facilities, affordable housing and good public transport links reduces the barriers for job seekers and working parents. The investment made in Early Years and Childcare under the previous Infrastructure Investment Plan supported the wider roll-out of flexible childcare opportunities may also make it easier for parents and carers, who at present are predominantly women, to participate and progress in the labour market.
- By investing in education infrastructure and improving digital and transport connectivity between home and education facilities we may support reducing the attainment gap between more and less deprived areas, as well as supporting adults to access learning in order to re-enter the labour market or re-train when needed. This may in turn help to equip school leavers with the skills suitable for employment and progression, and enable workers to better navigate and prosper in a dynamic labour market. Provision of digital communication infrastructure can be improved and be more responsive to changes in demand and technology and providing safe and secure cycling infrastructure. We consider that these changes will be of benefit to everyone although the benefits to children and young people include having improved access to good quality digital communication signals. With regards to cycling infrastructure this could be of particular benefit as children and young people have fewer options when it comes to transport.

4. Which groups of children and young people will be affected?

The Equality and Fairer Scotland Duty Statement which has been prepared for these proposals highlight where particular positive impacts have been identified for groups with protected characteristics, including children. It also supports those who are eligible for special protection (e.g. preschool children, children in hospital, children in rural areas, looked after children, young people who offend, victims of abuse or exploitation, child migrants, or children living in poverty) and it is considered that the impacts which are relevant irrespective of the age of the person.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

No – The Infrastructure Investment Plan is mainly aimed at businesses and public sector organisations which will be delivering the infrastructure projects and applying the strategic approach set out in the plan.

The Plan may have a positive impact on Scotland's population in general as it takes an outcomes focussed approach which supports a wellbeing economy through its links to Scotland's National Performance Framework. However, the Plan does not include any measures which will have a direct impact on children and young people under the age of 18. Although some indirect impacts have been identified, they were generally applicable to other age groups which were considered by the EQIA. All indirect impacts will be further explored when developing the new infrastructure appraisal framework, as part of the five year programme of improvements set out in the Plan, to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

This document assesses the impact of the Infrastructure Investment Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Scottish Government intends to publish the next Infrastructure Investment Plan in five years and will review and update this assessment at that time. Any future iterations will reflect an increased understanding of these impacts as the amount of data and research available continues to grow.

This impact assessment should be read in conjunction with the:

- Equality and Fairer Scotland Duty Statement
- Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Island Communities Impact Assessment

CRWIA Declaration

CRWIA required

CRWIA not required



Authorisation

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