

## Inverclyde Council 2025/26 Revenue Budget – Equalities Assessment

While an impact assessment has been carried out for each individual savings option, as appropriate, in relation to both Equality Impacts and the Fairer Scotland Duty, a wider, overall equalities assessment is also prepared in relation to the Revenue Budget proposals for Inverclyde Council covering the period 2025/26.

Overall, the Budget Saving Proposals (BSP) have been assessed for negative impacts against four main Council strategic priorities:

- the Protected Characteristics, as outlined in The Equality Act 2010 (Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation);
- reducing inequalities of outcome – the Fairer Scotland Duty;
- the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33; and
- the Council Plan 2023/28.

Two of the BSP will have a negative impact on the Protected Characteristic of Age, potentially negatively impacting young people in Inverclyde. Additional information is available from the Children Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment which is available to view on the Council's website.

In recognition of its collective responsibility as corporate parents and its commitment to the delivery of The Promise (that Scotland's children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected), the Council has adopted Care experienced as a tenth 'Protected Characteristic'. Our assessment shows that Care experienced people will be impacted in some way by one BSP.

The Council is aware that people from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to live in poverty. Those with the Protected Characteristic of Race will be impacted by one of the BSPs.

Beyond the impacts noted above no wider impacts in relation to the Protected Characteristics, Partnership Plan or Council Plan have been identified. A separate statement on the Fairer Scotland Duty is available.