

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	<p>Removal of SBC charges for hire of Freezers and Microwaves, currently supplied by Scotland Excel/Apetito.</p>
B. What is it?	<p>This service is to ensure that frozen meals are stored and then cooked safely, if the person meets criteria for assistance. People are currently charged for rental of equipment.</p> <p>Provision of meals will continue.</p>
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	<p>Proposal to end charges to service users.</p> <p>Scotland Excel /Apetito will no longer provide Freezers and Microwaves to Social Work and Adult Social Care clients.</p>

	<p>SBC currently charge £ £1.60 p/week for Freezers and £1.29 for hire of Microwaves.</p> <p>The change is scheduled to come into effect on 20.8.2024.</p>
D. Service Area: Department:	Social Work & Adult Social Care
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Chris Myers, Joint Director / Chief Officer Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	David Mills, Group Manager, Adult Social Work
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	19/8/2024

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

(please delete as applicable)

If yes, - please state here:

SBC charging policy document and referral forms will have to be amended.

Additionally, Scottish Welfare Fund may also be impacted by this change because there is a possibility that in the event of replacement equipment being required, there could be increased demand for financial assistance.

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:

Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010?

(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)

Yes

Equality Duty

Reasoning:

A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. *(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)*

The change will be the same for all, so does not discriminate.

B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	<p>The change will be the same for all but will affect some groups more, e.g., people who are elderly or have a physical disability.</p>
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	<p>Yes, removal of charges is likely to encourage good relations between the Council and people affected by this change but not necessarily between people who have different equality characteristics.</p> <p>The equipment currently in place, to either preserve or cook foods, will remain with the person.</p>

3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		x		<p>Previous increases of £70.40 per year for a freezer and £62.05 for a microwave, assuming these are hired for a year, were recommended in February 2024.</p> <p>This had a larger effect on elderly people who are more likely to use this service.</p>

				<p>Elderly people may also have less disposable income.</p> <p>The number of people hiring freezers and/or microwaves is small, however there could be a bigger impact where an individual hires both.</p> <p>With the end of charges for provision of equipment, the savings, per person would be</p> <p>£ 83.20 (freezer only) £ 67.08 (microwave only) £ 150.28 (both)</p>
<p>Disability A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This may be visible or invisible, progressive or recurring.</p>		x		<p>Previous increases of £70.40 per year for a freezer and £62.05 for a microwave, assuming these are hired for a year, were recommended in February 2024.</p> <p>This had a larger effect on people with a physical disability who are more likely to use this service.</p> <p>People with a physical disability may also have less disposable income.</p>

				<p>The number of people hiring freezers and/or microwaves is small, however there could be a bigger impact where an individual hires both.</p> <p>With the end of charges for provision of equipment, the savings, per person, will be</p> <p>£ 83.20 (freezer only) £ 67.08 (microwave only) £ 150.28 (both)</p>
Gender Reassignment anybody who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.	x			
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	x			
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),	x			
Race: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)	x			

Religion or Belief: different religious or philosophical beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief) e.g. Christianity, Islam, Hindu, pacifism, vegetarianism, gender critical.	x			
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	x			
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual				
<p>3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty</p> <p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making <u>strategic</u> decisions.</p> <p>The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.</p>				
<p>Is the proposal strategic?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If No go to Section 4</p>				

If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:

	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.		x		Removal of charges and ability to retain existing equipment will maximise household income of up to £150.28 per year. If the person needs to replace either the freezer, microwave or both and have a qualifying benefit, they will be supported to apply to the Scottish Welfare Fund.
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies		x		The person will be more able to access basic goods and services and maximise choice with this change.
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport), see rural proofing guidance	x			
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income		x		Income for people on benefits is likely to be enhanced with this change. As a matter of courtesy, the proposal

				was discussed at the SBC External Charging Forum meeting on 16 th June 2024. The Forum is attended by members of the community, people from within the elderly and disability communities, 3 rd sector representatives and officers of the council. There were no objections raised in respect of this change.
Care experienced people		x		Many people have been paying charges for several years and this change means they will continue to access meal services but without weekly charges to pay for rental of equipment.
Carers paid and unpaid including family members		x		May directly improve carer-related stress with improved financial benefit too.
Homelessness	x			
Addictions and substance use	x			
Those involved within the criminal justice system	x			

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (*Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only*)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.

This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No.

If "Yes", please complete below

Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
<p>The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;</p> <p>The <u>MOD Statutory Guidance</u> gives the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danger • Geographical Mobility • Separation from Family • Service Law • Unfamiliarity with Civilian Life • Hours of Work • Stress 	
<p>The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;</p>	

<p>The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.</p>	
--	--

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes *(please delete as applicable)*

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

This change will be to the benefit of all members of the community. In addition to reducing household expenditure with cancellation of hire charges, the person will be protected by keeping their equipment and have access to a fund to purchase items, should they need replacement.

A full impact assessment is not required because there are only benefits to this change.

The item was raised, as a matter of courtesy, at the external Charging group on 11.6.2024 and no objections from community, disability groups or 3rd sector partners were raised about the issue/changes.

Signed by Lead Officer:	David Mills
Designation:	Group Manager, Adult Social Work
Date:	19.8.2024
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	