

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.

This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit, incorporates a range of legislative requirements that support effective decision making and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation. **Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as “Draft” and retained for completeness. However, only the final version will be made publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 7 years.**

Service Area	Countryside Access and Recreation	Head of Service	Matt Perry	Director	Nigel Brinn	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Rachel Powell
Proposal	Outdoor Recreation savings, 2021-2024						
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal							
Outdoor Recreation has a required savings target of £76,000 over the period from 2021-24. The service delivers the following activities, which are statutory due to the health and safety implications:							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision, inspection and maintenance of play equipment, on Council owned land and inspection of equipment on land owned by others; - Tree management on Council owned land; - Management and maintenance of Outdoor Recreation buildings and land including sports pitches and pavilions and associated grass cutting. 							
The proposal is that a saving of £76,000 be made over the next 2 years, as follows; £40,000 in 2021-22 and £36,000 in 2022-23. In 2021-22 these savings can be achieved through reductions in third party spend; in 2022-23, the remaining savings will need to be achieved through reductions in staffing and third party spend. These savings take into account a budget pressure that has been put forward in relation to ash dieback.							

1. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
V01	Sian Barnes	Professional Lead, Countryside Access and Recreation	17 th December 2020
V02	Sian Barnes	Professional Lead, Countryside Access and Recreation	11 th January 2021

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025	TOTAL
£N/A	£40,000	£36,000	£0	£0	£76,000

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3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public and Staff consultation required	To be confirmed – autumn 2021

4. Impact on Other Service Areas

Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety, Corporate Parenting and Data Protection?) PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY
<p>Corporate Health and Safety and Insurance teams – Increased risk of the team being unable to meet health and safety responsibilities in a timely way in relation to hazardous trees, buildings and play equipment, leading to increased risk of injury and associated claims;</p> <p>Legal Services – Increased public dissatisfaction due to reduced quality and availability of play provision, reduced grass cutting, removal of trees or loss of access to areas of open space due to hazards and reduction in attractiveness of area, leading to a greater number of informal and formal legal challenges and complaints.</p> <p>Social Services and Powys Teaching Health Board - The service will be less able to assist in meeting the priorities of other Council services and Powys Teaching Health Board services. Access to parks and open spaces, and involvement in volunteer activities to maintain them make an important contribution to preventive healthcare, by improving mental and physical wellbeing and physical activity levels. If there is a reduced availability and quality of greenspace in the county, the potential to contribute to this will be significantly reduced.</p> <p>Regeneration / Tourism - The tourism potential associated with high quality parks and open spaces in Powys will be reduced, if less budget is available to maintain them.</p> <p>Education and Sports Development – Play forms an important part of lifelong learning and encouraging physical activity, for children and adults. Sports pitches provide important opportunities for physical activity. Reduced access or levels of maintenance on sports pitches, play areas and greenspace will have an adverse impact on learning opportunities and physical activity levels.</p> <p>Finance - The team’s capacity to generate income on a cost-recovery basis e.g. through drone surveys will be reduced, with less staff capacity.</p>

5. How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
The Economy We will develop a vibrant economy	The proposals will have an adverse effect on the local economy, as the service employs local contractors to carry out work on trees and play equipment. Reductions in core funding will result in the service being able to employ local contractors less often.	Very Poor	Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability.	Poor
Health and Care We will lead the way in effective, integrated rural health and care	Access to parks, open spaces, play areas and sports facilities is important in increasing physical activity levels and in promoting physical and mental wellbeing. This has been particularly notable during COVID 19. The proposals would adversely impact on these opportunities for preventive healthcare.	Very Poor	Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
Learning and skills We will strengthen learning and skills	Play forms an important part of lifelong learning, for children and adults. The proposals would adversely impact on these opportunities and therefore on learning.	Very Poor	Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
Residents and Communities We will support our residents and communities	Parks, open spaces and play areas are a focus of community activity for play, social and sporting events. The proposals would adversely impact on this.	Very Poor	Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts of COVID 19 and increased demand for play area provision during the outbreak - Powys Play Sufficiency assessment March 2019 - Powys Wellbeing Information Bank - 'Wellbeing of Wales' report 2017-18 - Public Health Wales report 'Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations' (April 2018) - Towards 2040 – The Powys Wellbeing Plan

6. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The proposals would have an adverse impact on the local economy, as the service would be able to employ local contractors to carry out work on trees and play equipment to a much lesser extent with reduced budgets.</p>	Very Poor	<p>Seek section 106 or grant funding where available for greenspace biodiversity enhancements. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability.</p>	Poor
<p>A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>The proposals would have an adverse impact on the biodiversity, as reduced core budgets may mean that hazardous trees need to be removed altogether and not replaced. There will be insufficient core budget to implement environmental enhancements in parks and open spaces. This is particularly the case with ash dieback.</p>	Very Poor	<p>Seek section 106 or grant funding where available for greenspace biodiversity enhancements. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	Poor

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<p>A healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017: Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>The proposals would have an adverse impact on opportunities for physical and mental wellbeing. Deterioration of play equipment (leading to removal) and in the quality of greenspace and sports pitches will discourage use of these areas for play and sport, reducing opportunities for physical activity.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>Greenspace, parks, sports pitches and open space make an important contribution to the attractiveness and viability of communities. Those with children are less likely to move to or remain in an area with poor quality play and sports provision, which will adversely impact on the viability of communities. Play areas and sports pitches are often the focus of community activities and events, so reductions in availability and quality of these areas would adversely impact on community cohesion.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The proposals would have an adverse impact on this priority. The reductions in core budget would adversely impact on opportunities for sports and play, impacting on quality of life for children. If parks and open spaces are not maintained to a sufficient degree, people will be discouraged from using them, which will have an adverse impact locally and therefore globally on wellbeing.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</p>		<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Opportunities to promote the Welsh language	Sharing and learning of Welsh language is likely to occur when children who are first language Welsh speakers play alongside children who are not Welsh speakers. By reducing these opportunities, the proposals will have an adverse impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Choose an item.
Welsh Language impact on staff		Neutral		Choose an item.
People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.	The proposals will adversely impact on this priority. If play areas, parks and open spaces are not maintained adequately and become difficult to use or completely unavailable, this will discourage people from taking part in outdoor recreation including sport.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).				
Age	Opportunities for young people to play and take part in sport will be adversely impacted by these proposals.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
Disability	Reduced core budget will adversely impact on the service's ability to maintain high quality play areas and sports pitches with equipment and surfacing that is accessible to all.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Choose an item.
Gender reassignment		Unknown		Choose an item.

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<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>		Unknown		Choose an item.
<i>Race</i>		Unknown		Choose an item.
<i>Religion or belief</i>		Unknown		Choose an item.
<i>Sex</i>		Unknown		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>		Unknown		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	The proposals will have an adverse impact on access to accessible greenspace and play opportunities, which would have an adverse impact on the parents and guardians of young children. Accessible and safe surfaces and equipment e.g. gates are required for access with a pushchair; the proposals would impact adversely on the service's ability to provide these.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts of COVID 19 and increased demand for play area provision during the outbreak - Powys Play Sufficiency assessment March 2019 - Powys Wellbeing Information Bank - 'Wellbeing of Wales' report 2017-18 - Public Health Wales report 'Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations' (April 2018) - Towards 2040 – The Powys Wellbeing Plan 				

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7. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
Long Term: <i>Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>	The proposals would have an adverse impact on the wellbeing of the community in the longer term, as they would reduce the availability of high quality greenspace, play and sports provision in, or close to settlements. People may need to travel further to access these opportunities.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor
Collaboration: <i>Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	The service is already working closely with community councils to seek sustainable solutions and will continue to do so.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</i>	The service is already working closely with community councils and community volunteers to seek long term solutions and to achieve sustainable maintenance of greenspaces and will continue to do so.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i>	The proposals would have an adverse impact on the opportunities for prevention of poor physical and mental health. Opportunities for physical activity and access to greenspace near settlements would be reduced.	Very Poor	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.	Poor

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<p>Integration: <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i></p>	<p>The proposals would adversely impact on taking an integrated approach. Reduced quality and availability of play areas, parks, sports facilities and open space would impact adversely on these as opportunities for wellbeing.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>Preventing Poverty: Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	<p>High quality play provision and access to parks and other greenspace close to settlements provides low cost recreation that can enhance the quality of life of all residents, including those living in poverty. The proposals would have an adverse impact on this.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>Unpaid Carers: Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</p>	<p>High quality play provision and access to parks and other greenspace close to settlements provides low cost recreation that can enhance the quality of life of all residents, including unpaid carers. The proposals would have an adverse impact on this.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p>Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>		<p>Unknown</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Impact on Powys County Council Workforce</p>	<p>There will be an adverse impact on the service workforce, as the proposals will result in a reduced number of staff. Individual workloads will be higher and staff are more likely to encounter dissatisfaction from the public, with impacts on their wellbeing.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>Set realistic priorities for work, focussed on health and safety and effective use of external funding opportunities. Managers in the Service will need to be robust in ensuring that staff are able to adhere to plans and not be required to attend to other, lower priority work.</p>	<p>Poor</p>

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

- Impacts of COVID 19 and increased demand for play area provision during the outbreak
- Powys Play Sufficiency assessment March 2019
- Powys Wellbeing Information Bank
- 'Wellbeing of Wales' report 2017-18
- Public Health Wales report 'Creating healthier places and spaces for our present and future generations' (April 2018)
- Towards 2040 – The Powys Wellbeing Plan

8. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Severity of Impact on Communities	Scale of impact	Overall Impact
High	Medium	Medium
Mitigation		
Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.		

9. How likely are you to successfully implement the proposed change?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
High	High	High
Mitigation		
Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing. Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability and work with volunteers where appropriate for maintenance of greenspace.		

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Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
There will be insufficient budget available to effectively manage trees on Council owned land; this may result in trees becoming hazardous to members of the public. The Council may then be liable for serious injuries, if pro-active surveys and work are not carried out. The cost of injury claims may outweigh the savings delivered.	Very High	Seek section 106 or grant funding where available for managing greenspace. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability. If no other option, remove hazardous trees altogether and do not replace them.	High
A legal challenge is possible, if play provision is not adequate or deemed to be unequal across the county. The cost of a challenge may outweigh the savings delivered.	High	Work with Council's Housing service to maintain high quality play areas in areas owned by Housing.	Medium
Injury claims due to hazards on Council grounds or outdoor recreation buildings are more likely if the budget to carry out pro-active inspections and work is reduced.	Very High	Seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing sports pitches and maintenance of buildings. Transfer remaining assets to communities where possible to ensure ongoing sustainability. If no other option, close facility.	High
Staffing reductions will result in significantly reduced capacity to generate income through inspections of trees and play areas for other organisations e.g. community councils and through Drone surveys. This will reduce the ability to mitigate against reduced core budgets.	High	Work with Property, Regeneration, Planning and Sports Development teams to seek section 106, grant or capital funding where available for managing greenspace, play equipment and maintenance of buildings.	Medium
Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
	X		

10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
<p>The proposals will have an adverse impact on the opportunities for sports, play and outdoor recreation in the county. This will reduce the attractiveness and viability of communities and adversely impact on opportunities for residents to take part in low cost physical activity, to improve physical and mental wellbeing. Reductions in budgets for maintaining trees, buildings and sports pitches are associated with a high health and safety risk; buildings, play areas and trees, in particular, require pro-active survey and management by a specialist, so opportunities to deliver this in another way are extremely limited. The cost of a single injury claim could outweigh the savings delivered; for sites that are not owned by Housing Services, mitigation is entirely dependent on the availability of external funding and willingness of the community to take on these liabilities, so mitigation may not be achieved. For sites owned by Housing Services, mitigation is dependent on the ongoing availability of budget and external grant funding; there is some risk that this mitigation may not continue to be achieved.</p>	

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11. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

- Tree surveys to assess the extent of ash dieback indicating that significant numbers of trees in the county are affected
- Knowledge and experience of staff involved in day-to-day running of the service for information about costs required e.g. for tree work and inherent risks.

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?

Monitoring of play provision will be achieved through future play sufficiency assessments. Risks will be highlighted as they arise, through weekly team meetings and also via quarterly reporting against the Corporate Improvement Plan.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

Ongoing

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sian Barnes		
Head of Service:	Matt Perry		14 th Feb 2021
Director:	Nigel Brinn		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr Rachel Powell		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Choose an item.	Date required

FORM ENDS