

Annex F: Island Communities Impact Assessment

Approach

The National Islands Plan was introduced after the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

However, an 'island-proofing' assessment was undertaken as part of the passage of the Planning Act as reported in the policy memorandum:

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/previous-bills/planning-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-planning-scotland-bill.pdf>.

Page 3 of the policy memorandum refers to the requirement for Ministers to prepare an Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) in relation to legislation which is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities.

The mandatory training on planning for elected members will apply equally across Scotland, suggesting that an ICIA is not required. The reasoning has been set out below.

Impact assessment process:

1- Understand your objective

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 includes provisions which would make the training of elected members mandatory.

The implementation of the training will mean that elected members will not be allowed to carry out the specified planning functions on behalf of a planning authority such as determining planning applications until the specified training is completed.

2 – Assess impact on islands

The training of Elected members is currently carried out on a voluntary basis and is provided by authorities. This means that the attendance and the content of the training provided by authorities is inconsistent across Scotland.

Mandatory training will be applied equally at a national scale for all elected members and the specified training requirements will not differ between authorities. Beyond the mandatory training, Planning Authorities can provide additional training on subjects which are relevant to their local area and communities.

It is proposed that the mandatory training will be conducted either in person or online. Both methods can cause issues for island communities for different reasons e.g. long travelling distances and digital connectivity. In both instances we are not proposing the training to exceed a day to complete, therefore the impact from these issues should be lessened.

3 – Consultation

A fuller assessment has not been undertaken because of the national scale at which the mandatory training will be carried out.

Initial desk based research was undertaken into current training practices and also stakeholder workshops were held in November 2022 where all local authorities across Scotland were invited to attend. There was no representative from the island communities present.

This public consultation on the proposed implementation of mandatory elected training will allow representatives across all of Scotland will be able to voice their views on the proposals.

4 – Assessment

We consider that the implementation of mandatory training will not have a significantly different effect on island communities and therefore a full ICIA is not required.