



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

**Name of Proposal** (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Levelling Up Fund – Brechin Caledonian Railway

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

No

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

No

(iii) It is for information only

No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

No

(v) It is technical

No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

### Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Service Reform

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

No, The UK Government announced the launch of the Levelling Up Fund in March 2021. It applies to the whole of the UK. The fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Transport (DfT) to invest £4.8 billion in high value local infrastructure. It focuses on the needs of individual places and the strategic case for investment. While the Fund is open to every local area, it is especially intended to support investment in places where it can make the biggest difference to everyday life, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns, and coastal communities. It is also designed to help local areas select genuine local priorities for investment by putting local stakeholder support, including the local MP where they want to be involved, at the heart of its mission.

In Scotland, the Fund is delivered through Local Authorities

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

Angus Council has been approached by the committee of Brechin Caledonian Railway to apply as lead applicant to the UK Levelling Up Fund. Caledonian Railway has in the past and continues to be well supported by Angus Council. The volunteer led committee regularly engage and have strong links with Economic Development, Strategic Policy & Project Team, and the Roads Departments.

The committee are in the process of developing a long-term strategic plan for the railway and they are keen to link their plan with both the Council and local objectives. Initially the committee did not consider Levelling Up Funding when it was first launched. Following the announcements of the successful projects, they have explored in more detail and see it as a potential fit for the future development of the railway which will have an Angus wide benefit.

This is an ambitious project, heritage railways in the UK provide enormous contributions to their local regions attracting global visitors. This project will have major regional and national significance with the potential to unlock substantial economic, social and environmental benefits for the Angus community.

Project objectives are:

- Development of Brechin Station environs
- Extension of the existing railway from Bridge of Dun to Montrose (Network Rails connection) including supporting infrastructure
- Inclusion of an active travel corridor
- Development of House of Dun Environs
- Research into the conversion of trains from diesel to hydrogen fuel

(iv)Is it a new proposal?      Yes/      Please indicate      OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function?    No    Please indicate

#### **Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?**

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees	Yes
Job Applicants	No
Service users	Yes
Members of the public	Yes

#### **Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:**

**Internal data** (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Levelling Up applications go through a robust three stage process and are assessed on Strategic Fit, Value for Money, and Deliverability. The fund is open to every local area and it is intended to support investment in places where it can make a difference to everyday life, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and coastal communities.

Brechin has some significant levels of deprivation as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The residential area to the north of the historic core, Brechin West, is mostly affluent. Parts of central Brechin, around the Lidl supermarket and former railway station contain some levels of social deprivation. In East Brechin, particularly the residential areas between Montrose Street (A935) and the River South Esk, have above average levels of deprivation, with parts of Brechin East falling within the 20% most deprived wards in Scotland.[1]

A similar picture emerges in relation to income deprivation and child poverty as well as the number of out-of-work benefit recipients. For example, in parts of Brechin East, 23% of the population are classified as income deprived.

School attendance rate is 81%; attainment of school leavers is 4.91; working age people with no qualifications is 130; 5% of young people aged 16 – 19 are not participating in education, employment or training; 7% of young people aged 17 - 21 from the area go on to a University education.

The Brechin Railway Committee are in the process of developing a long-term strategic plan for the railway and they are keen to link their plan with both the Council and local objectives: Child Poverty, Angus Local Transport Strategy, Community Plan 2017-2030, Angus Travel Strategy for Angus etc. Linking Brechin Caledonian Railway long term plan to Angus Council strategies and plans will have a positive impact on the people and area of Brechin through increased health and wellbeing, development of skills and volunteering, active travel opportunities and infrastructure improvements.

**Internal consultation** (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

The Levelling Up Fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department of Transport. The fund is delivered through local authorities who must act as lead partner.

Analysis and feedback provided from the unsuccessful round one application highlighted the need for Angus Council to be more ambitious in their project proposals.

Brechin Caledonian Railway has requested Angus Council apply to the second round of the Levelling Up Fund on their behalf. The bid value is £15,667,745 and is on a more significant scale than the round one bid supported.

CLT discussions have taken place on applications and the project management required by Angus Council on behalf of third-party applicants including financial and legal risks. The terms and conditions of Levelling Up Funding require the Council to comply with several terms and conditions which have similarities to external funding that the Council has supported in the past. If successful in securing Levelling Up Funding project delivery would be through a third party, putting a significant financial risk on the Council and additional pressures on staff involved in the financial/non-financial monitoring and reporting to UK Government.

**External data** (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

Brechin Caledonian Railway has carried out consultation over time to support the development of the railway and their current proposal. Brechin Railway started as a heritage railway in 1979. Since then, it has developed a strong brand and is a key part of the Angus Tourism offering. The organisation have contributed in excess of £20million to the local economy in the last 10 years and continue to show annual growth. A study showed Heritage Railways across the UK provided more than £250million to the UK economy in 2014 and there continues to be considerable growth in the market as a non-enthusiast tourism offering. They also provide community support through education and training as well as supporting other community groups.

**External consultation** (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

The project is to be delivered by a local charity that is long-established, highly respected and widely trusted by the local authority and local community alike.

Brechin Caledonian has carried out a railway engagement exercise with local community groups and organisations. Letters of support and individual endorsements will be supplied as evidence of engagement.

**Other** (general information as appropriate).

## **Step 6: Evidence Gaps.**

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold?      No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

**Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?**

Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.**

Age

**Impact – Positive**

Investment in proposals will provide access to facilities and activities that in turn will reduce child poverty, improve mental health and wellbeing and Improve accessibility and connectivity. Facilities will cater for all age groups from young to older people providing social engagement, learning, skills development opportunities helping reduce social isolation. The development of event space to support railway operation and local community events helping to improve wellbeing of all ages.

Brechin Caledonian Railway has been run by volunteers for over 40 years and are always looking for new members to volunteer their services. Young people and school children who volunteer are encouraged to get involved with all aspects of preserving the heritage of the railway through training which helps in the develop skills and build confidence.

Disability

**Impact – Positive**

The development and improvement of Active Travel routes in the area will create accessible walking and cycling opportunities for all users. Participation in outdoor activities such as walking and cycling increases wellbeing and helps decrease mental health issues.

Gender reassignment

**Impact – no impact**

Marriage and Civil Partnership

**Impact – no impact**

Pregnancy/Maternity

**Impact – no impact**

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

**Impact – Neutral** - all services and facilities are available to all residents and visitors to Angus

Religion or Belief

**Impact – Neutral** - all services and facilities are available to all residents and visitors to Angus

Sex

**Impact – Neutral - all services and facilities are available to all residents and visitors to Angus**

Sexual orientation

**Impact- all services and facilities are available to all residents and visitors to Angus**

### **Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected**

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

Consultations have been carried out by third parties

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

### **Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?**

External – all impacts are positive

Internal – Negative impact on staff resources to administer

### **Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.**

**Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to:** eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

It fosters good relations between people of different protected characteristics

**Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?**

### **Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

**Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?**

**Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.**

**Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings?** Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.**

**Low and/or No Wealth** (e.g. those with 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).

#### **Impact**

**Material Deprivation** (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

#### **Impact**

**Area Deprivation** (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

#### **Impact**

**Socio-economic Background** i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

**Impact**

**Other** – please indicate

**Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.**

**Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?**

It is not anticipated that a review will be necessary unless there is a significant change to the proposal

**Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?**

This will be published alongside the accompanying committee report.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Rhonda McFarlane

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips, Snr Practitioner (Equalities0

Approved by:

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.

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