

Chesterfield Borough Council
Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

Service Area: **Environment**
Section: **Green Spaces**
Lead Officer: **Andy Pashley**

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy the preliminary EIA is being produced for: **Chesterfield Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:

Existing

Changed

New/Proposed

STEP 1 – MAKE SURE YOU HAVE CLEAR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

The vision for the strategy is to;

Ensure that Chesterfield has an accessible network of high quality parks and open spaces which puts good health and an excellent quality of life within reach of everyone who lives in and visits Chesterfield.

Our objectives are to;

Prioritise investment in Parks and Open Spaces

Use resources effectively and sustainably

Increase the use of Parks and Open Spaces

Effectively engage with our community and partners

Who is the policy, project, service, function or strategy going to benefit and how?

This strategy aims to benefit all of our communities through the provision of a network of green space that is safe, accessible and attractive. Furthermore we will seek to prioritise investment and activity in wards which currently suffer from multiple deprivation. It sets the framework for taking positive action to ensure that people of all social backgrounds and protected characteristics have the opportunity to fully benefit from using our network of parks and open spaces.

What outcomes do you want to achieve?

Through the Strategy we are seeking to

- Broaden the range and numbers of people using parks and open spaces
- Increase the range and numbers of those volunteering;
- Improve skills and knowledge through learning and training;
- Improve management and maintenance.

More specifically we hope to

- Engage, support and develop key clubs and groups involved in parks
- Develop / increase participation in healthy activity and events
- Develop the existing and new volunteer workforce in Parks

What barriers exist for both the Council and the groups/people with protected characteristics to enable these outcomes to be achieved?

- Limited capital and revenue funding
- Reluctance to volunteer
- Finding effective ways of managing parks on a sustainable footing and securing long term resources to support and train those involved
- Resistance to continued involvement of the local community in managing, maintaining and developing parks ,

STEP 2 – COLLECTING YOUR INFORMATION

What existing data sources do you have to assess the impact of the policy, project, service, function or strategy

- 'Are you being served' survey data collected in 2013
- State of the Borough Report May 2013
- Green Flag criteria (national benchmark) 2014
- Local quality assessments based on Green Flag 2014

STEP 3 – FURTHER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Please list any additional engagement activities undertaken to complete this EIA e.g. met with the Equalities Advisory Group, local BME groups, Employee representatives etc. Could you also please summarise the main findings.

| Date | Engagement Activity | Main findings |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 2013/14 | Review of recent existing consultation exercises including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastwood Park Heritage Scheme • Green flag surveys at Queen's Park, Pools Brook Country park and Holmebrook Valley Park • The Place Survey (Are you being served?) • King George the Fifth Playing Field Masterplan • Stand Road Park • Thistle Park • Sites and Boundaries studies (Planning) | Various to help shape and inform the strategy |
| June – Sept 2014 | Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partners • Officers • Friends Groups • Members | Various to help shape and inform the strategy. |
| June 2014 | Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum | General support for the draft strategy |
| July 2014 | Web questionnaire | General support for draft objectives with some improvement suggestions |
| July/Sept 2014 | Community Assemblies presentations and newsletter | General support for draft objectives with some improvement suggestions |
| October /November 2014 | Scrutiny Project review | Project recommends physical access improvements to parks and play areas |
| Future | Specific consultation and EIA's to be conducted for each improvement project | |
| | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | |
| STEP 4 – WHAT’S THE IMPACT? | | |

Is there an impact (positive or negative) on some groups/people with protected characteristics in the community? (think about race, disability, age, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and other socially excluded communities or groups). You may also need to think about sub groups within each equalities group or protected characteristics e.g. older women, younger men, disabled women etc.

Please describe the potential impacts both positive and negative and any action we are able to take to reduce negative impacts or enhance the positive impacts.

| Group or Protected Characteristic | Positive impacts | Negative impacts | Action |
|--|--|---|---|
| Overall impact on the community | <p>The adoption of the strategy will have the following positive impacts on the community as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to test the delivery of reshaped services and to build on the existing qualities parks and open spaces • It will promote play, sports and physical activity as a means of healthy development for all sections of the community. • Strategy actions will improve access to Council facilities for all parts of the community. • There will be positive action to ensure that people of all social backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities. • The strategy will actively support health initiatives for target groups to have the opportunity to participate and to help ensure health inequalities are redressed • With an objective of increasing legitimate use of parks along with targeted action to control ASB, users should feel safer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the improvements in activities are dependent upon available match funding from the Council. | Develop parks team to engage proactively with community and partners to secure sustainable improvements |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Age – including older people and younger people.</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> <p>Building respect between young people, their parks, other visitors and neighbours – involving them in consultation and representation in park groups etc.</p> <p>Getting young and older people to experience and enjoy parks – develop evening activities, new facilities, broader range of sporting and fitness activities etc.</p> <p>Involving people of all ages in looking after and improving their Parks.</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> |
| <p>Disabled people – physical, mental and sensory including learning disabled people and people living with HIV/Aids and cancer.</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> <p>There will be positive impacts for people with mobility issues as physical access will be improved through the replacement of pathways, signage and improving egress points into and out of parks.</p> <p>Access to play facilities for children with disabilities will be improved as part of improvement projects.</p> <p>The aim of encouraging more people within target groups to use parks will help to improve mental</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> | <p>(See overall impact on the community)</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | and physical well-being | | |
| Gender – men, women and transgender. | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |
| Marital status including civil partnership. | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |
| Pregnant women and people on maternity/paternity. Also consider breastfeeding mothers. | (See overall impact on the community) Connecting families with the new opportunities being offered – awareness raising, partnerships, sporting and recreation activities etc. Develop family oriented recreation activities etc. Engaging through a more diverse range of events and activities | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |
| Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual, Lesbian, gay men and bi-sexual people. | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |
| Ethnic Groups | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |
| Religions and | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on | (See overall |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beliefs including those with no religion and/or beliefs. | | the community) | impact on the community) |
| Other groups e.g. those experiencing deprivation and/or health inequalities. | (See overall impact on the community) The strategy specifically targets improvements in communities experiencing health inequalities etc. | (See overall impact on the community) | (See overall impact on the community) |

From the information gathered above does the policy, project, service, function or strategy directly or indirectly discriminate against any particular group or protected characteristic?

Yes

No

If yes what action can be taken to stop the discrimination?

Please see action identified in the table above.

STEP 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISION MAKING

How has the EIA helped to shape the policy, project, service, function or strategy or affected the recommendation or decision?

Actions have been identified to mitigate against any anticipated negative impact.

How are you going to monitor the policy, project, service, function or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

This EIA will be reviewed 12 months following adoption of the strategy.

STEP 6 – KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLICATION

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Head of Service/Service Manager and the Policy Service before WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager

Name: Mel Henley

Date:

Reviewed by Policy Service

Name: Katy Jeffrey

Date:

Final version of the EIA sent to the Policy Service

Decision information sent to the Policy Service