

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Name of Strategy/Policy:	Open Spaces Strategy	
Officer Name(s):	Catherine Taylor	
Job Title & Location:	NEAT Officer, Stubblelee Hall, Stubblelee Lane, Bacup	
Department/Service Area:	NEAT Team, Streetscene & Liveability Department	
Telephone & E-mail Contact:	01706 252541 catherinetaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk	
Date Assessment:	Commenced: 21/5/07	Completed: 21/5/07

1. Impact Assessment – Policy and Target Outcomes

- a) Summarise the main aims/objectives of the strategy, policy, procedure or project (refer to “**Notes for Guidance**” for details).

To inform members of the recently produced Draft Open Spaces Strategy detailing some of the key findings, priorities and future directions.
Hays Street Play Area – As recommended in the Play Strategy; to remove the equipment and landscape the site. The proposed removal relates to findings from the Open Space Review and Play Strategy. Please see the following:-

- Consultation with children, Councillors and RBC Play inspector did not highlight the play area as a high priority.
- With reference to the Open Space Review, which takes into account Access, other relevant nearby provision (Greenfield Gardens, Victoria Park and Ratcliffe Street Pocket Park), Historical and Cultural relevance and population density; the score awarded to this particular area was LOW QUALITY and LOW VALUE.
- All other relevant, nearby provision is deemed to be improved within the next 3 years.
 - Ratcliffe Pocket Park – Quick Fix
 - Greenfield Memorial Gardens – Secured £50,000 towards £200,000 project (estimated)
 - Victoria Park – Pre Application sent to BIG lottery’s Innovative Play Fund. Awaiting response.

b) Is the policy under review (please tick)

New/proposed Modified/adapted Existing X

- c) Who will be the main beneficiaries, targets or users of this strategy, policy, project or procedure?
- ✓ Customers/citizens of the district
 - ✓ Targeted/specific groups of customers/citizens (indicate below in [d]).
 - ✓ Elected Members/Councillors
 - Internal colleagues/customers or other public authorities e.g. government agencies
 - ✓ Community Groups/voluntary sector groups or campaign/interest groups
 - Staff/employees (in their contractual position) and/or potential employees/trainees.
 - ✓ Any other stakeholder e.g. trade unions, contractors, suppliers, district partners, public agencies (not directly under Council control), intermediaries representing interest groups e.g. tenants, developers, legal agencies or third parties.

Specify in box below:

Contractors who carry out works in accordance with the strategy/delivery plans, Groundwork (RBC's partner for providing play services), Greenvale Homes due to consideration of play near to Greenvale estates (former council homes)
Hays Street Play Area – Local residents – Current, derelict and unusable play area will be removed and replaced with a usable, attractive open space.

- d) Please detail below specific equality groups – for example disabled citizens, elderly or infirm/female or non-traditional users who are seen as intended beneficiaries from this policy/strategy/project/procedure (see “**Notes for Guidance**”).

Key equality groups as intended beneficiaries (where appropriate):

Young people, older people, ethnic groups and disabled people are all specifically mentioned as being intended beneficiaries of the strategy.
Hays Street Play Area – Children and Young People – As stated in the Play Strategy, any Play Area removed, should be done so with creative, natural and / or free play in mind. By landscaping the area, this replace a once unusable, uninspiring place with a space that children and young people can use to play in freely.

- e) To assist with the assessment you may need to consider collecting the following information you require, before completing the table in Section 2:
- NATIONAL DATA eg surveys, reports, statistics, etc which point up specific areas/issues.
 - ✓ LOCAL DATA eg demographics, service mapping studies & relevant research.
 - ✓ MANAGEMENT INFO eg data collected for operational/financial or other purposes.
 - MONITORING DATA eg information already available or collected. For example: disability type, age band, gender, location. (ref existing BVPIs).
 - ✓ CONSULTATION/CONTACT DATA eg user group feedback, representations, specific consultation events etc.
 - CUSTOMER COMPLAINT/FEEDBACK eg results of investigations, inquiries, elected member cases, normal complaints/compliments etc.
 - ✓ Views of LSP Officers, independent externals, contractors/suppliers, partners and academia (if relevant).
 - ✓ OTHER eg frontline employee feedback, other research, experiences of other agencies/local authorities, councillors mailbags/surgeries.

f) Is further consultation, data collection or research still required?

Yes

No

(If yes then complete Action Plan)

Key Actions (note responsible officer(s)):
 Consultation is ongoing at present.
 Hays Street Play Area – Consultation / information provision with immediate residents is required before full removal takes place.

1. Impact – Evidence

a. Using the table below please tick whether you have evidence that the policy/strategy has a negative, positive or neutral impact on any of the equality groups listed below

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
Gender	Women	X		Positive – the report is intended to benefit all residents by improved open spaces	
	Men	X		As above	
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	X	X	Positive – as above and ethnic groups are specifically mentioned as having been consulted	
	Black or black British people	X	X	As above	
	Chinese or other ethnic people	X	X	As above	
	Irish people	X	X	Positive – the strategy is intended to benefit	

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
				all residents by improved open spaces	
	White people	X		As above	
	Chinese people	X		Positive – as above – ethnic communities are specifically mentioned as having been consulted	
	Other minority communities not listed above e.g. traveller/European (please state below):	X		As above	
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	X		Positive – the report is intended to benefit all residents by improved open spaces and access for anyone with a disability is specifically referred to in the	

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
				report with a view to improving access.	
Sexuality	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals	X		Positive – As above	
Gender Identity	Transgender people	X		As above	
Age	Older people (60+)	X	X	Positive – the report is intended to benefit all residents by improved open spaces and older people have been specifically consulted with when developing the strategy	
	Younger people (17-25), and children	X		Positive – the report is intended to benefit all residents by improved open spaces and	

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
				younger people are specifically mentioned in relation to both play areas and as having been consulted as part of the strategy.	
Belief	Faith groups *	X		Positive – as above	
Other Groups (e.g. carers, rural isolation)			X	Whilst the emphasis is improving open spaces for all there is much discussion of improving play areas and open spaces where there is increased housing and this may mean those who live in a rural location do not benefit as much of those in a high density area.	

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason	Neutral Impact (Neither)
Equal opportunities and/or improving relations	Note impact on group relations <u>between</u> and any effects on social cohesion.	x	x	<p>Positive - All residents should benefit from an improved service delivery</p> <p>Negative – need to ensure that each neighbourhood feels they are getting an equivalent standard of open space and that the strategy does not seem to focus one area over others e.g. if funding is available in one area</p>	

Notes:

* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

b) If the table above is not fully completed, what further information does the Assessor need?

No further information required at this stage. The consultation regarding the open space strategy is ongoing and further review will be required.

c) Based on a summary of the evidence obtained, are there specific equality groups more affected than others by this policy/project etc area? If so indicate briefly below.

The report intends to benefit all residents, although disabled users of open spaces are specifically referred to as being benefited by improved access.

2. Impact – Nature/Type

a) Could you further improve the strategy, project, policy or procedure's positive impact?

YES

NO

If “Yes”, briefly summarise below how the positive impact could be improved upon.

Key Actions:

1. Ensure the strategy, the outcomes and the resulting delivery plans are publicised and accessible by all
2. Ensure one area of development/improvement is not publicised more than another area to avoid any communities feeling resentment towards another area

and thus detrimentally affecting community cohesion.

b) If you indicated that there is neutral impact, could this be changed to become positive?

YES NO

If yes, briefly summarise below how this impact could be minimised or removed:

Key Actions:
n/a

c) You need to think about how you can mitigate any adverse or negative impact or use the policy to promote a positive impact. If the proposed policy or project has a:

High Impact – you have identified that the policy or project will have a high, negative impact i.e. that it may be or is unlawfully discriminating against some groups, you will have to take immediate action to mitigate this.

Or:

Lower Impact – if you have identified that the policy would have a negative or adverse impact (that may not be lawful) you will also need to consider what changes you could make to remove this impact.

If you have identified adverse impact you must determine whether you will recommend that the Council should:

- Change the policy, stating what the changes should be
- Revise the policy, stating the revisions
- Consult further if you feel that you do not have enough information

Actions arising from the impact assessment should form part of the Service Planning Process.

Key Actions:

1. Consider amending the report to emphasise that the resultant delivery plans will have regard to the consultation and will be publicised and accessible by all
2. Consider amending the report to emphasise that whilst the open strategy is based on number of factors, all areas are receiving equal focus and it is not intended for one area to benefit over another.

3. Impact Assessment - Summary

a) Key Findings

Please list the major outcomes/results/findings of this assessment in relation to equality which require action by the Council:

Key Findings:

1. The consultation process for the open spaces strategy must be publicised and accessible by all, regardless of language spoken or any impairments
2. The approved strategy and resulting delivery plans must be available and accessible by all;
3. Where possible open spaces must encourage access for anyone with a disability or impairment.
4. It is important to avoid any area feeling they are not receiving the same provision as another area of Rossendale.

b) "Public Duty" Issues

Refer to "**Notes for Guidance**". Given the three strands of legal duty, please identify which particular issues are essential for the Council to address:

To promote equality of opportunity

To promote good relations between people from different groups

To eliminate unlawful discrimination (under DDA 1995/2005).

To promote positive attitudes toward disabled people in public life.

To encourage participation by disabled people in "public" life.

To take steps to meet disabled people's needs (even if this requires more favourable treatment).

4. Impact Assessment – Further Action

a. As a result of collecting evidence (including consultation) have any changes been made, or are planned, to this policy, strategy, procedure or project?

Yes No

(If yes then complete Action Plan)

Key Actions (note responsible officer(s) or political body as required):

No changes made, save for the above recommendations.

- b. Has a monitoring/evaluation/review process been set up to check the successful implementation of the policy/strategy including improved outcomes?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly summarise below:

The strategy and delivery plans should be further reviewed once they are in their final stages.

- c. Please briefly describe how the above monitoring/evaluation will ensure the policy/strategy will be reviewed/monitored for impact (indicate timescale):

This will ensure my recommendations are taken on board and the outcome of the consultation has been fed into the strategy and delivery plans.

Please complete the Action Plan overleaf

d. If no further action is to be taken as a result of this assessment:

1. Are you convinced that no discriminatory action is evident in the implementation of this policy, procedure, etc?

Yes No

2. Have you weighed up and considered any negative impact and the options to change, alter or adapt?

Yes No

3. Do you intend/recommend a further review? If yes, indicate timescale.

Yes No (Timescale:.....)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment (refer to Sections 3 & 4).

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Amendments to strategy once consultation completed	Equalities Impact Assessment	Catherine Taylor	Not yet known	Officer time	
Delivery plans	Equalities Impact Assessment	Catherine Taylor	Not yet known	Officer time	

Equality Impact Assessment

Checklist & Signature Sheet

Name of Strategy/Policy:	Open Spaces Strategy
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Please check the following steps have been completed before signing below:

- Sections 1 to 4 completed
- Action Plan completed
- Notified all relevant Officers/Service Areas/Partners

Signed:Catherine Taylor.....

Job Title:.....NEAT Officer..... Department:SS & L.....

Date commenced Assessment:...21/5/06..... Date completed: ...22/5/07.....

Date received in HR:.....

Received in HR by:.....

Please sign the EQIA as indicated above, retain a copy and send a copy of the full EQIA, including the Action Plan, to:

Liz Murphy
Head of Human Resources
Kingfisher Business Centre, Futures Park
Bacup
OL13 OBB
lizmurphy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the Head of HR)

- Referred back to Assessor for amendment(date)
- Refer to Committee (specify committee & date)
- Considered by Corporate Equalities Implementation Group..... (date)
- Published/made publicly available on (date)

Signed:..... (Head of HR) Date:.....

Date of Review:.....