

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

EqIA Titular information:

Date:	31 st January 2022
Service:	Delivery and Infrastructure
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	Temporary Closure of Remenham Footpath 4 for the Henley Festival
Completed by:	Andrew Fletcher
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	No
Signed off by:	Francesca Hobson
Sign off date:	31 st January 2022

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1. Policy, Project or service information:

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:

A request has been received from the organisers of the Henley Festival of Music and the Arts for the closure of part of Footpath No.4 Remenham to allow for the land to be used to host the Henley Festival between 4th and 12th July 2022. During this time an alternative route will be available for the public to use.

Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members ect) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:

The Council have powers to approve the temporary closure of public rights of way to allow for events to take place under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Whilst there is no legal requirement to consult in respect of the application, the Council agreed at Executive on June 25th 2015, that for applications for temporary closures on rights of way affecting the Thames Path and the Blackwater Valley Footpath, (for special events) the following policy will be adopted:

- 1) prior consultation will be carried out with the following groups: The Ramblers' Association, The Open Spaces Society, Natural England, the relevant Parish Council and the ward member for the area through which the path is situated; and
- 2) the decision as to whether a closure will be made will be taken by the Executive unless it is agreed by the Executive Member for Environment that such referral to the Executive is not required.

Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?

The Henley Festival for Music and the Arts are the main beneficiaries of this decision. Should the closure be approved the public will have an alternate route available during the times that the public footpath is closed.

Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:

2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.

3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

For information on how to define No, low or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

For details on what constitutes a positive impact, please consult the EQIA guidance.

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	No	
Gender:	No	

Disabilities:	No	The alternative route runs parallel to the closed path, will be fully signed and fully accessible. The effect of the closure is thus not considered to pose any impact on people with disabilities.
Age:	No	
Sexual orientation:	No	
Religion/belief:	No	
Gender re-assignment:	No	
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No	
Marriage and civil partnership:	No	

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by....Francesca Hobson

Date: 31st January 2022