

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

Restoration of Wharton Park



Durham County Council – Altogether Better Equality Impact Assessment Form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.	
Service/team or section: Culture and Sport, Neighbourhood Services	
Lead Officer: Project Manager, Culture & Sport Services, Neighbourhood Services	Start date: 15 th May, 2012 <u>Reviewed</u> 12th March 2013
Service Improvement Officer (Equality and Diversity)	
Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)	
<p>Wharton Park occupies 4.3 hectares of high ground approximately 1 km to the north west of Durham City Centre and 2km from the World Heritage site of Durham Castle and Cathedral.</p> <p>Situated within the Durham City Conservation Area and containing one Grade 2 listed structure "The Battery" which affords magnificent views of Durham City, Castle and Cathedral, Wharton Park is an existing designed urban green space, which includes parks, gardens, walks, structures and other recreational activities. Its main purpose is for informal recreation and enjoyment and this project includes an element to research and display the history and heritage of the park.</p> <p>Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People Programme was approved in July 2011 and this combined with additional project development monies from approved Neighbourhood Budget applications has been used to develop a project which includes detailed designs / costings, Visitor and Bat Surveys, Site Investigation Works, Project Management, a ten year Conservation Management Plan and a business plan</p> <p>A key aim of the project is to greatly improve the park's facilities, to greatly improve access for all and to make a positive impact in bringing all sections of our community closer together.</p>	

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

The main stakeholders include members of the public who visit Wharton Park, visitors to the area, local councillors who are supporting the project through their neighbourhood budgets, the Friends of Wharton Park (over 230 in number), Durham Area Action Partnership, Durham Police and local schools.

Is a copy of the subject attached? No

If not, where could it be viewed? Please contact Project Manager, Neighbourhood Services

Initial screening

This project will have a positive impact across the following protected equality characteristics:

Age

This project, including the Friends of Wharton Park, includes the Haggrid Project (a partnership project with Durham Police and Framwellgate school) which will give local young people practical horticultural experience in the park working with the Friends of Wharton Park. It will bring old / young people together on volunteering activities and local people with staff / students from Durham University. The young apprentices aspect of the project will provide valuable work experience / qualifications in horticulture and customer care / hospitality – providing a useful pathway to work for local youngsters. The focus on active play, sport and leisure activities and the outdoor fitness equipment / climbing boulders will help build the health and fitness of young people.

Disability

One of the aims of the project is to make the park “accessible for all”. A strong element of the project is to greatly improve access for the disabled to the main facilities of the park. This will be done in the following ways :-

- The Heritage centre will be designed and located to be accessible for the disabled including wheelchair users. The centre will allow access to all parts of the centre and a disabled toilet will be provided. Currently there are no toilets or disabled toilets within Wharton Park.
- Disabled parking will be provided in the park for the first time – helping to make access easier for those with disabilities
- Viewing areas will be created for the amphitheatre and for views of the Castle and Cathedral with easy access from the car park
- The play area will be designed to include equipment that is accessible for all including those with disabilities.
- A wide range of events and activities are planned for the park with some aimed at those with disabilities.
- A community garden will be created which will include sensory planting elements.

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

There are no negative impacts – all the impacts below are positive.

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	Y	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	Y	Religion or belief	?	Sexual orientation	?
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What evidence do you have to support your findings?

This project, including the Friends of Wharton, Park, Haggrid Project and the volunteering opportunities within the park have a positive impact on young and old people.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – No

Date: 15th May 2012

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender			
Age			
Disability			
Race/Ethnicity			
Religion or belief			
Sexual Orientation			

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

The Friends of Wharton Park and the Haggrid aspects of the project together with the opportunities to volunteer hold events and to hold meetings in the new Heritage centre will all have a positive impact in building positive relationships with all sections of our communities.

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

Disabled access will be greatly improved to the key facilities in Wharton Park and disabled parking will be provided for the first time. The Heritage centre will be designed and located to enable disabled access and will also include toilets, including a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities which again will greatly improve the facilities available in the park.

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Review prior to bid being submitted	Project Manager, Culture & Sport	August 2013	EIQA
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: January 2014 when the funding decision from Heritage Lottery Fund is known.		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer Head of Culture & Sport Services - sign off: Reviewed Project Manager, Culture & Sport Services			Date: <u>Reviewed</u> Date 24.05.13
Service equality representative: Customer Relations and Policy and Performance Manager			Date: <u>Reviewed</u> Date: 6.6.2013