

## Shotley Papermill Footbridge Replacement – Appendix 4

### 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. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.**

#### Section one: Description and initial screening

<b>Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.</b>	
Service/team or section: Technical Services	
Lead Officer: Head of technical Services Equality & Diversity Officer Design Engineer Civil Engineering Manager Section Manager	Start date: 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)	
Shotley Papermill Footbridge – Replacement Shotley Papermill footbridge was destroyed by flood in September 2008 The footbridge provided an important crossing between County Durham and Northumberland linking Public Rights of Way on both sides of the River Derwent. The planned replacement must meet conditions set out by the Environment Agency in order to reduce the risk of further flood damage and in order to meet these conditions and the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (now The Equality Act 2010) will be repositioned to ensure sufficient height and improved accessibility.	
Two Options have been considered in order to meet these requirements. Option 2, a diagonal bridge landing in	

the same place as the original on the Northumberland side has been rejected due to financial considerations. Option 1 is the preferred option and provides a direct and accessible route from the car park on the County Durham Side to the footpath on the Northumberland side. This footpath will be improved as part of the project, and consideration is being given to providing additional lighting and seating on the route.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –  
 General Public, Landowners and Local Residents

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes / No

If not, where could it be viewed?

**Initial screening**

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/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?**

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

Gender	Y	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
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**How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?**

Reminder of our legal duties:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone’s disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people
- Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making

**What evidence do you have to support your findings?**

See section two

**Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No**

**Date: 14/3/2011**

**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)
<b>Gender</b>	The replacement bridge will have improved ramped access which is more	Evidence suggests that in general women are responsible for childcare.	Monitor complaints.

	accessible for people with prams and pushchairs. This is likely to impact positively on women in particular		
<b>Age</b>	The replacement bridge will have improved access both in the form of steps and a ramp. Also improvements to the car park on the County Durham side and the foot path on the Northumberland side should have a positive impact on users of all ages, particularly older people.	Evidence suggests that mobility issues are likely to increase with age. Improved access will therefore help to reduce barriers.	Consider provision of improved lighting and seating along route.  Monitor Complaints
<b>Disability</b>	The replacement bridge will have improved access for people with disabilities, particularly wheelchair users, people with limited mobility and visually impaired people, resulting in a positive impact.  It is recognised that the distance to be covered in order to get to the landing point of the old bridge will be 12 metres longer in option 1 than in option 2. However, improvements to the path, lighting and seating	The bridge design has taken in to account the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (Equality Act 2010) and associated guidance.  The bridge design includes steps and a ramp. Step edges will be highlighted appropriately in keeping with the surrounding area to ensure good contrast to reduce barriers for people with visual impairments.	Consider tactile warnings where appropriate.  Consider provision of improved lighting and seating along route.

	provision will significantly reduce any barrier that this presents.		
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	None		Monitor complaints
<b>Religion or belief</b>	None		Monitor complaints
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	None		Monitor complaints

<b>How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?</b>
N/A

### **Section three: Review and Conclusion**

<p>Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.</p> <p>The replacement of Shotley Papermill Footbridge will improve access for parents or carers with pushchairs, older people and people with disabilities due to the improvements in the design in relation to the previous bridge. Works on the car park and the path on the opposite side will also improve access for all groups, and while we have identified no impact for Race, Religion &amp; Belief or Sexual Orientation, we recognise that the improvements, particularly to lighting etc may improve safety for all vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken prior to both options with a wide range of stakeholders including Residents, The Environment Agency, Access And Rights of Way, Highways &amp; Development Control, Design and Conservation , Northumberland County Council, The Ramblers Association and Shotley Bridge Village Trust. No equality</p>
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impacts have been identified during this consultation.			
Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Ensure consideration is given to appropriate lighting and seating on routes to the bridge are considered in the project plan	Civil Engineering Manager	May 2011	Bridges Works Programme for 2011/12
Monitor complaints for equality impacts once bridge is in place	Civil Engineering Manager	Estimate from summer 2011	Bridges Group
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: March 2012		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?			
Lead officer - sign off: Steve Keetley, Head of Technical Services			Date: March 14 2011
Service equality representative - sign off: Mary Readman, Policy & Performance Manager			Date: March 14 2011

**Please email your completed Impact Assessment to the Equality team - [equalities@durham.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@durham.gov.uk).**