

Appendix 3

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

Tree Management Policy



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: Direct Services

Lead Officer: County Clean and Green Manager
Neighbourhood Services

Start date: 1 September 2013

Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)

The Tree Management Policy sets out the Council's approach to retaining, managing and enhancing the tree stock for the benefit for all who live work and visit the County. It will also be used to encourage others responsible for trees to take a positive approach to the management of trees in their care.

Who are the main stakeholders: **General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other** (please specify) – Professional Organisation/stakeholders who have a stake in woodland management and development, Tourists

Is a copy of the subject attached? No

If not, where could it be viewed? County Clean and Green Manager – Direct Services

Initial screening

The introduction of a risk based approach to prioritising tree maintenance will have a positive impact across the protected strands as the policy will lead to improved management of council and privately owned trees. The management of the trees in a more proactive way will lead to earlier intervention when trees are identified as being potentially dangerous leading to increased public confidence.

Clarifying the circumstances when intervention will or will not take place will also lead to an increased public understanding of how and why tree maintenance is carried out by the council.

The council also has a responsibility for the planning of residential developments and this policy will provide the opportunity to further benefit the protected groups by promoting developments with trees species matched to sites avoiding the problem of them out growing their location.

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?

There is an actual/potential negative or and positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

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

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

Officers knowledge of service provision

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – No **Date:** 1 September 2013

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?

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.			
The public consultation will enable a more detailed assessment to be developed based on the respondents and their profile			
Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
The information gathered from the consultation will be used to determine if the policy will affect the protected characteristics	County Clean and Green Manager		EqlA plan
Consultation -to ensure consultation and engagement process with the public is in place	County Clean and Green Manager and Communications and Marketing Team Leader	December 2013	Consultation plan

EqIA to be reviewed in line with any changes generated through consultation	County Clean and Green Manager and Service Improvement Officer (Equalities)	March 2014	EqIA Plan
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: 16 th January 2014		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer - sign off: County Clean and Green Manager Neighbourhood Services			Date: 27 November 2013
Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations and Performance Manager			Date: 28 th November 2013

Please email your completed Impact Assessment to the Service Improvement Officer (Equalities)