

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to equality.

Please refer to the 'EIA Report Form Guidance' while completing this form. If you need further support please contact acesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk.

Where do you work?
Service Area: Poverty & Prevention / Planning / Cultural Services/Parks and Cleansing
Directorate: People / Place

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Please name and describe below...

City & County of Swansea Open Space Strategy

Swansea's Open Space Strategy is a high-level document that sets out a vision for Open Spaces over the next decade.

Open spaces are defined as valued community assets which help improve public health, mental and physical well-being and quality of life, and which bring biodiversity and regeneration benefits to an area.

Open space is land in public ownership that is regularly available for recreational or sporting use by the community and can also act as a visual amenity.

The Strategy will be supplemented by an action plan that will detail implementation of the strategy. Significantly, this will follow extensive public consultation and engagement.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on 24/6/16

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Children/young people (0-18)	X	Religion or (non-)belief.....	X
Any other age group (18+).....	X	Sex.....	X
Disability	X	Sexual orientation	X
Gender reassignment	X	Welsh language	X
Marriage & civil partnership	X	Poverty/social exclusion.....	X
Pregnancy and maternity.....	X	Carers (inc. young carers)	X
Race	X	Community cohesion	X

**(e) Lead Officer
Name: Ian Beynon**

Job title: Sport & Health Manager

Date: 27/6/16

**(f) Approved by Head of Service
Name: T. McNulty**

Date : 27/6/16

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the initiative:

What are the aims?

Strategic Vision

'By 2025 the City & County of Swansea will have a vibrant and diverse range of quality parks and open spaces, well distributed across the County. Sites will reflect local needs and historical, recreational and natural characteristics. The spaces will form a network which maximises opportunities for everyone to interact within their local community and the wider area whilst also attracting people into the City and County'

Objectives

- To address deficiencies in open space provision across the County in order to improve opportunities for local people to access a variety of open space environments
- To create, develop and sustain safe open space environments which can be enjoyed by all sections of the community;
- To involve the whole community: residents, public, private and voluntary organisations to ensure that parks and open spaces contribute fully to the development of sustainable and cohesive local communities;
- To develop the educational role of open space, particularly for young people, in order to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the importance of being active in the outdoors and of the natural environment;
- To provide a range of opportunities and facilities for active and passive recreation which can contribute to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing;
- To manage and develop parks and open spaces in order to promote social inclusion and usage by all of the County's diverse communities;
- To develop and promote an increased range of opportunities for people to enjoy cultural experiences and activities;
- To promote biodiversity and the conservation, protection and enrichment of species and habitats.

The 5 key priorities are;

- Increasing accessible open space and people's access to it
- Delivering new developments - Based on LDP sites
- Designating and protecting open space
- Encouraging Community involvement/management
- Promoting biodiversity and nature conservation

Who has responsibility?

- Responsibility for development of the Open Space Strategy lies with the Cabinet Advisory Committee which is supported by officers from Cultural Services, Parks and Cleansing, Poverty & Prevention and Planning.

- It is expected that these Officers will take on responsibility for implementation of the strategy including the development and undertaking of the associated Action Plan.

Who are the stakeholders?

- Due to the role of Open Spaces in meeting the needs of all residents of the City & County of Swansea, all will be classed as current or potential stakeholders.

Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/ evidence of how this information is collected.

Children/young people (0-18)	✓	Carers (inc. young carers)	✓
Any other age group (18+).....	✓	Race.....	✓
Disability	✓	Religion or (non-)belief.....	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sex.....	✓
Marriage & civil partnership	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Pregnancy and maternity.....	✓	Welsh language	✓

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Information on children & young people is current and obtained from the Research & Information Team via the latest Census yearly update. Additionally, PLASC information is current as of January 2016.

This tells us how many children & young people live where, with an age breakdown. This tells us where there are areas of high cyp population.

Additionally, there is a range of existing consultation and engagement available. For example, the 2016 Play Sufficiency Assessment found parks as the number 1 place cyp liked to play.

Information on young carers is obtained through links with the young Carers Trust. This has highlighted the need for respite opportunities for young carers which can often be provided by open spaces.

We work very closely with the BME community and representative groups. This helps us to know about issues affecting them. A relevant example is that we know that some members of the Muslim community are uncomfortable around dogs and this can impact on their use of public open space.

Additionally, with the Traveller Community classed as BME, we engage with Travellers Education and travellers themselves.

We have enhanced our links with the LGBT Community and this has helped us to see the impact of information, signage, in terms of gender stereotyping. There is also an increased recognition of the use of male / female toilets, which is of particular relevance in public parks.

The development of Friends of Parks groups has been extremely effective in gauging views and needs of key service users. In addition to membership of these groups, there are public sessions where local residents can contribute their ideas and comments.

Any Actions Required?

Relevant actions will have been identified within the Assessment. Specific to this EIA are the following;

- Undertake a consultation and engagement exercise with the general public (and representative groups to ensure all need groups are included) on what they feel open spaces are for and what they would like to see.

Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Children/young people (0-18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group (18+)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case.</p>
<p>What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below.</p> <p>Consultation and engagement will focus on the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are people's understanding of Open Spaces and what they are for - The benefits of Open Spaces - How they would like to see Open Spaces developed - What issues currently exist in relation to open spaces <p>This consultation and engagement will take place in partnership with the Access to Services Team as well as the Children's Rights Officer.</p> <p>It is proposed to undertake an extensive consultation and engagement exercise with the following;</p> <p>General Public – through local media / Swansea Leader to invite comments</p> <p>Children & Young People – through face to face questionnaires undertaken during play sessions, as well as a sample of schools</p> <p>Consultation and engagement sessions with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friends of Park Groups - Over 50's Network - Disability Forum - BME Family & Play Group - Play Access Group <p>Additionally the draft Strategy would be taken to a "Big Conversation" for young people and a consultation template circulated to various other networks and posted on the Education bulletin.</p>
<p>Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

(Please see the specific Section 4 Guidance for definitions on the above)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion? Please provide details.

Public open spaces provide a vital community role and there is a clear contribution to community cohesion in bringing all sections of the community together.

The development of Friends of Parks groups in particular has supported community ownership and engagement.

How will the initiative meet the needs of Welsh speakers and learners?

The entire process from consultation and engagement, through to signage and information will give due regard to compliance with the Welsh Language Act.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- N/A other than that identified in the consultation and engagement process
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Section 5 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

In this section, we need to consider whether the initiative has any direct or indirect impact on children. Many initiatives have an indirect impact on children and you will need to consider whether the impact is positive or negative in relation to both children's rights and their best interests

Please visit <http://staffnet/eia> to read the UNCRC guidance before completing this section.

Will the initiative have any impact (direct or indirect) on children and young people? If not, please briefly explain your answer and proceed to Section 6.

Is the initiative designed / planned in the best interests of children and young people? Please explain your answer.

Recognition of children's rights will run throughout the development and implementation of the strategy in line with the considerable impact on them of accessing open space. This is particularly relevant to Article 31 and their right to play and leisure, but cuts across a range of others from their right to be heard, to be part of clubs and groups, as well as support for those affected by disability.

Several of the officers responsible for development and implementation currently sit on the Children's Rights Group and have long included children's rights as an automatic and integral part of their work.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- N/A
-

Section 6 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this initiative:

Monitoring arrangements:

There is currently an inter-departmental Open Spaces Group in existence and this would seem to be the most appropriate implementation group.

It is recognised that there is a lack of representation by the nature conservation team and this should be addressed.

Actions:

Increase membership of the Open Spaces Group to involve Nature Conservation

Section 7 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to the guidance for further information on this section).

Outcome 1: Continue the initiative – no concern	X
Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative – low level of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 3: Justify the initiative – moderate level of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 4: Stop and refer the initiative – high level of concern.	<input type="checkbox"/>

For outcome 3, please provide the justification below:

For outcome 4, detail the next steps / areas of concern below and refer to your Head of Service / Director for further advice:

N/A

Section 8 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

1. Send this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk
2. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
3. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.

Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Undertake an extensive consultation and engagement exercise	I. Beynon / M. Russ / S. Cable / JR. Thomas	November 2016	Upon completion of consultation with contributions that are fed into the action plan for implementation	
Produce an action plan for implementation in response	I. Beynon / M. Russ / S. Cable	January 2017	Action plan is produced which effectively allows for compliance with objectives, with SMART targets.	
Ongoing monitoring of implementation	I. Beynon / M. Russ / S. Cable	Ongoing	Evidence that actions have been achieved or are being worked towards	