

Equality Impact and Needs Assessment Form

Section One – Screening

Name of strategy, policy or project:
Improving Devon's Environment: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005
Directorate and service area:
Environment, Economy and Culture, Public Rights of Way
Name and contact details of officer completing assessment:
PROW Improvement Plan Officer Steve Gardner 01392 382250
1. What is the main purpose of the strategy/policy/project (or the changes you want to make to it)?
To improve public rights of way and access for all.
2. What are the main activities of the strategy/policy/project?
Management of the access network, provision for users and the wider context.
3. Who is intended to benefit from the strategy/policy/project, and how?
Residents of, and visitors to, Devon
4. Is the strategy/policy/project consistent with the Council's equality policies?
Yes
5. Is responsibility for the strategy/policy/project shared with another department, authority or organisation? If so, what responsibility and which bodies?
The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005 forms a strand of the Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

6. What impact is the strategy/policy/project likely to have on different sections of the community? You may wish to use the table below as a prompt.

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
Gender					
• Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Men	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Ethnic Group					
• Asian or Asian British people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Black or Black British people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Chinese people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Gypsy or Roma People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Irish People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• People of Mixed Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• White People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• People of other ethnic backgrounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Asylum Seekers and Refugees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
People with physical, sensory or learning disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Deaf People who use British Sign Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
People with mental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

¹ Refer to section 3 of the EINA guidance.

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
health issues					
Lesbians, gay men and bisexual people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Trans people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Age					
• Older people (60 +)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
• Younger people (17-25) and children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
People of different faith groups or beliefs including non-believers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Travellers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Notes:

- Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when assessing positive and negative impacts.
- The categories relating to ethnicity include those used in the 2001 census. Consideration should be given to the needs of specific communities within the broad categories such as Bangladeshi people and to the needs of other communities such as Turkish/Turkish Cypriot, Greek/Greek Cypriot and Polish that do not appear as separate categories in the census.
- An adverse impact does not necessarily require action to be taken. Actions must remain in proportion with the benefits that could be achieved and resources available to complete them. If adverse impacts are identified and actions for improvement are not proportionate, the reasons for not taking action should be detailed and open to challenge.

7. If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:			
Legal?	YES	NO	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>(i.e. it is not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation – refer to the Council’s website or your Directorate Equality Representative if guidance is needed)</i>			
Intended?	YES	NO	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Level of impact	HIGH	LOW	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.			
8. a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance? Explain how:			
b) Could you improve the strategy, project or policy’s positive impact? Explain how: Further research in the needs of users, or potential users, who are: * blind or partially sighted and others with mobility problems; * older people; * younger people and children. <i>You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section Two.</i>			
9. If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does? How?			

Please sign and date this form. Keep one copy, send a copy to your Directorate Equality Representative. Please email a further copy to Natasha.Cole@devon.gov.uk. The results will be published on the Council’s website.

Signed: PROW Improvement Plan Officer

Date: 27th July 2006

Section Two – Full assessment

Name of strategy, policy or project:

Improving Devon's Environment: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005

Date: 27th July 2006

Part A

1. Looking back at section one of the EINA, in what areas are there concerns that the strategy, policy or project could have a negative impact?
None

2. Summarise the likely negative impacts.
N/A

3. What previous or planned consultation or research on this topic / policy area / project has taken place / will take place with groups / individuals from different sections of the community? If there has already been consultation or research what does it indicate about negative impact of this strategy, policy or project?

Section of the Community	Summary of consultation or research carried out or planned

4. What consultation has taken place/or is planned with DCC staff/DCC staff group including staff that have, or will have, direct experience of implementing the strategy / policy / project?
A Rights of Way Improvement Plan Working Group made up of DCC Officers provided advice and information during the production of the Plan.

5. If there are gaps in your previous or planned consultation and research, are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to get further views or evidence on the issues.
YES (Please list them below and explain how you will obtain their views)
Countryside Agency Diversity Review - participate in consultation and obtain final report.
Needs of Young People - attend national seminar in September 2006.

NO

6. Has the strategy / policy / project been through legal vetting for compliance?

YES

NO

Note: This will only be necessary in conditions where the strategy / policy / project is entirely driven by legislative duties **and/or** where there is doubt about the legal interpretations in relation to the outcomes / service being provided.

Part B

Complete this section when consultation and research has been carried out

7. a) As a result of this assessment and available evidence collected, including consultation, state whether there will need to be any changes made / planned to the policy, strategy or project.

b) As a result of this assessment and available evidence is it important that DCC commission specific research on this issue or carry out monitoring / data collection?

(You may wish to put this information directly onto the action plan at the end of this form)

8. Will the changes planned ensure that negative impact is:

Legal? YES NO

(not discriminatory, under anti-discriminatory legislation)

Intended? YES NO

Low impact? YES NO

9. a) Have you set up a monitoring / evaluation / review process to check the successful implementation of the strategy, project or policy?

YES NO

b) How will this monitoring / evaluation further assess the impact on different sections of the community/ ensure the strategy/ policy / project is non-discriminatory?

Details:

10. What is the final policy decision for this assessment?

11. There is a legal requirement to publish the outcome of an Equality Impact and Needs Assessment. Please outline how / where this will happen:

Please complete the action plan below, sign the EINA, retain a copy and send a copy of the full EINA, including the Action Plan, to your Directorate Equality Representative.

Signed: PROW Improvement Plan Officer

Date: 27th July 2006

Equality Impact and Needs Assessment Action Plan

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment.

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Needs of users with limited mobility	Research and recommendations for implementation	Steve Gardner	Before March 2007	Included in budget for 2006-2007	Included within Annual Action Plan 2006-2007
Needs of younger people and children	Attendance at national seminar exploring the needs of young people when accessing the countryside	Steve Gardner	September 2006		
Needs of older people	Further research	Steve Gardner	Ongoing		

NOTES:

The main objective of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is to improve public rights of way and access for all. However, the nature of public rights of way and countryside access is such that it may not be possible at all times to fully cater for the needs of different sections of the community.