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HDC Due Regard (Equality Analysis) Template

Due Regard (Equality Analysis) is an on-going proactive process which requires us to consider the effect our decisions are likely to have on local communities, service users and employees, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk of disadvantage.

This template has been designed to assist in the collation of information and evidence required to support the 'Due Regard' process when introducing new policies/procedures/functions and services or reviewing existing ones.

For help with this template please view the guidance document, which contains advice to assist you when you are considering the impact (both positive and negative) of the proposed actions on each of the protected equality characteristics.

Name of policy/procedure/function/service being analysed: Open Spaces Strategy

Department and section: Planning Services, Strategic Planning and Housing

Name of lead officer: Matthew Bills

Other people involved (assisting or reviewing - including any service users or stakeholder groups etc.):

Date assessment completed: April 2015

Step 1: Defining the policy/procedure/function/service

Is this a new, amended or reviewed policy? What are the aims, objectives and purpose and how will they be achieved? What are the main activities and which communities are likely to be affected by these activities? What are the expected outcomes?

The Open Spaces Strategy 2015 is a review of the Open Spaces Strategy 2011. All users of open space could be affected by the outcomes from the Open Spaces Strategy.

The proposed vision for the open spaces strategy is:

'To provide quality open space that supports wildlife, is valued and enjoyed by people and contributes to their health and well being'

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Aim	HDC Priority Supported
<p>Aim 1. To provide and maintain appropriate and good quality open space that is open to all and protected for future generations</p>	<p>Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.</p> <p>Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live</p>
<p>Aim 2. Conservation and habitat is enhanced and protected</p>	<p>Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.</p>
<p>Aim 3. To ensure open spaces are safe and litter free, and contribute towards a safe environment</p>	<p>Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.</p> <p>Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live</p>
<p>Aim 4. Voluntary groups are supported to use and manage open spaces</p>	<p>Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.</p> <p>Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live</p>

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<p>Aim 5. Deliver value for money services when managing open space</p>	<p>Provide public services which are effective and deliver value for money.</p>	
<p>Aim 6. Open Space supports business and income is maximised</p>	<p>Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community intent on prosperity, employment and learning opportunities.</p>	
<p>Aim 7. Ensure that open spaces support health and wellbeing of local people</p>	<p>Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.</p> <p>Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live</p>	

Step 2: Data collection & evidence
 What relevant evidence, research, data and other information do you have and is there any further research, data or evidence you need to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known affects of the policy on different communities? Include quantitative data as well as qualitative intelligence such as community input and advice.

Consultation with communities has taken place during February and March 2015, to determine the issues that the Open Spaces Strategy needs to address. A series of questions were asked to allow communities to make

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representations about areas of concern or suggest the extent and scope of the Open Spaces Strategy. The consultation was available online, and as a hard copy document on request. An easy to read version of the consultation was also produced.

The consultation responses received through the consultation portal were as follows:

Total representations made (web)	216 (72.2%)
Total representation made (email)	83 (27.8%)
Total individual respondents	32

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This level of response is good compared with the previous Open Spaces Strategy Consultation in 2009 that was provided as a hard copy document upon request.

Additional Consultation

We received feedback from 3 individual workshops that were facilitated by HDC Equalities Officer during March and April 2015

The workshops were as follows

Workshop name	Harborough Action Team
Date	17 th March 2015
Details	9 female, 1 male 6 people with long term health problem or disability All aged 18+ All white British Responding to easy to read version

Workshop Name	HFT
Date	15 th April 2015
Details	14 Respondents

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Gender - 10 x female & 4 x male

Age - 3 x 30 year olds, 2 x 34 year olds,
3 x aged between 30-40, 1 x 40 year
old,

1 x 46 year old, 2 x 50 year olds, 1 x 59
year old & 1 x 69 year old

Ethnic group – 14 x white

Health problem/disability – 3 x No, 7 x
Yes, limited a little & 3 x Yes, limited a
lot

Carers – 11 x No, 2 x Yes, care for
someone for 20-49 hours a week, 1 x
Yes car for someone for 50+ hours a
week

Workshop Name

Sherrard Road Park

Date

14th April 2015

3 Respondents

Gender - 3 x male

Age - 3 x 13 year olds

Ethnic group – 3 x white

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Health problem/disability – 2 x no, 1 x
yes, limited a little

Carers – 3 x no

A summary of the main issues that were raised in the responses is below:

- Location of Open Spaces is important
- Easily accessible Open space is required
- Biodiversity and habitat provision needed
- Provision of SUDs on open space and for wildlife is important
- The Aims as listed were supported overall
- Civic Spaces and greenways should be included as a typology
- Assurance that an open space will be suitably maintained in the future is required
- A aspiration to provide a series of greenways for walking and cycling is well supported
- Improvement and connecting up of existing 'greenways' was considered important
- A series of visions was suggested for different typologies
- Consideration should be given to communities determining the type of Open Space they require
- Protection of Open Space against development is paramount
- Provision of on site open space except in extenuating circumstances
- Many local respondents supported that the District Council should adopt and maintain open space.
- Some local respondents supported community management where the community is able to undertake this responsibility.
- Recognition from external agency respondents that community management of open space should be considered where possible
- The wishes of the community are paramount in the decision making process for open space provision.
- Consideration should be given to increasing the commuted maintenance time period
- The consultation document was considered too long and detailed. The public respondents and Parish Council much preferred the easy to read version, and encourage the District Council to take this approach in the future

The workshops facilitated by HDC Equalities Officer resulted in the following main issues being raised:

- Cycle ways are a good idea for exercise, health and as a safe route.

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- Cycling on paths in parks is a problem – have proper cycling places
- Good signage and promotion of cycle routes/ open spaces needed as some respondents did not know about existing provision.
- Make sure that routes are safe
- Teenage provision is generally poor
- Dog fouling is a nuisance – more dog walking areas
- Will cycle further to a destination park
- Open space on bus routes is good, although some respondents did not use buses
- Vandalism and graffiti is bad at some parks; makes youngsters feel unsafe
- Broken play equipment is disappointing
- Provision of benches needs to be better in some parks (WP tennis, Square)
- Bring back the crazy golf.

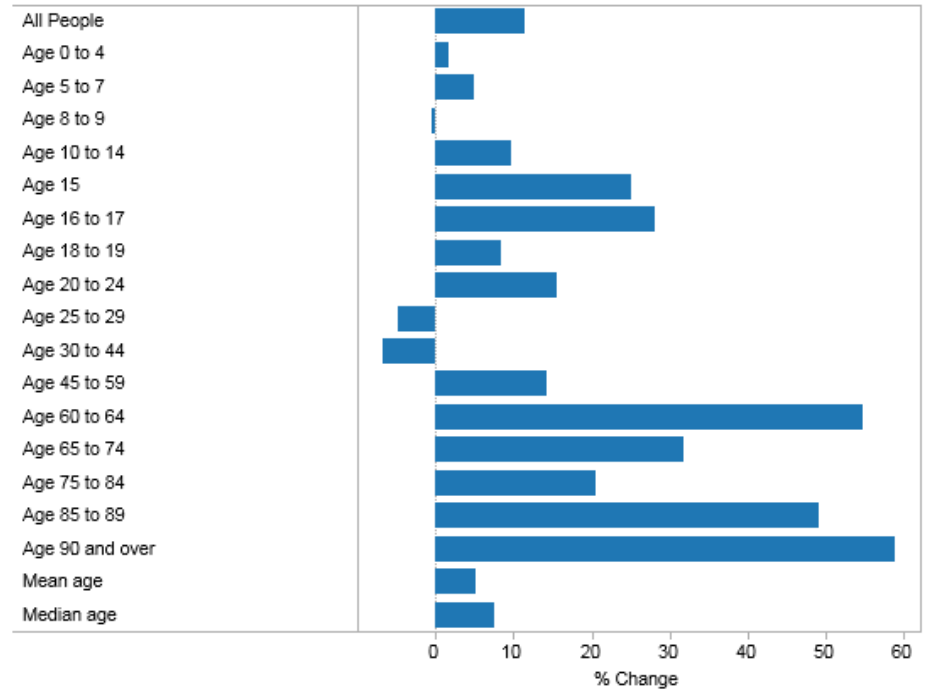
The demographic of Harborough District are below. This shows a high increase in teenagers and older people.

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Harborough: KS102EW: Age structure, 2001-2011

	2001 Values	2011 Values	Change 2001-11	Percent Change 2001-11
All People	76,559	85,382	8,823	12
Age 0 to 4	4,590	4,665	75	2
Age 5 to 7	2,886	3,028	142	5
Age 8 to 9	1,998	1,987	-11	-1
Age 10 to 14	5,040	5,527	487	10
Age 15	912	1,141	229	25
Age 16 to 17	1,795	2,301	506	28
Age 18 to 19	1,580	1,714	134	8
Age 20 to 24	3,203	3,701	498	16
Age 25 to 29	3,884	3,700	-184	-5
Age 30 to 44	18,039	16,827	-1,212	-7
Age 45 to 59	16,745	19,139	2,394	14
Age 60 to 64	3,915	6,061	2,146	55
Age 65 to 74	6,426	8,470	2,044	32
Age 75 to 84	4,165	5,019	854	21
Age 85 to 89	932	1,389	457	49
Age 90 and over	449	713	264	59
Mean age	40	42	2	5
Median age	40	43	3	8

Harborough: KS102EW: Age structure, 2001-2011



The comments received as representations online and through workshops indicate that further efforts need to be put into provision for older children and an aging population in the District.

Step 3: Consultation and involvement

Have you consulted and if so outline what you did and who you consulted with and why.

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The consultation was available in HDC webpages, and was sent to all Parish Councils. It was also advertised to the general public as a press release and included in Local Papers. Officers promoted the open spaces strategy consultation at meetings before and during consultation, and the Equalities Officer undertook three workshops with young people and persons with learning difficulties during the consultation period.

Step 4: Potential impact

Considering the evidence from the data collection and feedback from consultation, which communities will be affected and what barriers may these individuals or groups face in relation to Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities and also the potential impact on Community Cohesion. Remember people have multiple characteristics so the impact of a policy on a particular community may impact people within the community differently. Where possible include numbers likely to be affected.

The impact of the Open Spaces Strategy is across all communities, backgrounds, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Open space should be free and accessible to all.

The area where the Open Spaces Strategy can have the biggest positive impact is provision of facilities for older children and older persons.

The largest detrimental affect is the potential loss of open space. Any decisions involving the loss of

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existing open space that is managed by the Local Authority will be subject to a separate Equalities Impact Assessment

Step 5: Mitigating and assessing the impact

If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people. Consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary and how any unmet needs have identified can be addressed.

It is not considered at this time that the open spaces strategy will have a detrimental affect on persons because of Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex or Sexual Orientation.

Step 6: Making a decision

Summarise your findings and give an overview of whether the policy will meet Harborough District Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity and human rights. Does it contribute to the achievement of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?

Provision of open space has the potential to have a positive impact on persons throughout the District. The Open Spaces Strategy will ensure that existing open space is protected and new open space is of the type and has the facilities to bring the biggest possible benefit to the community it serves.

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By working with partner organisations and others Harborough District Council will seek to deliver suitable and accessible open space into the future and meet the objectives of the District Council.

Step 7: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy/procedure/service change

What monitoring systems will you put in place to promote equality of opportunity, monitor impact and effectiveness and make positive improvements? How frequently will monitoring take place and who will be responsible?

The Open Spaces Strategy will be monitored for equality issues at each consultation stage and prior to submission to Executive for adoption.

Equality Improvement Plan

Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

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Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Signed off by:

Date:

Once signed off, please forward a copy for publication to Julie Clarke, Equality and Diversity Officer
e-mail: j.clarke@harborough.gov.uk , telephone: 01858 821070.