

Appendix 8- Shropshire Council Part 1 ESIIA: follow up screening and assessment

Name of service change
<i>Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28.</i>
Aims of the service change and description
<p>Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28 sets out the strategic direction for the management and development of publicly accessible outdoor assets across the unitary authority area of Shropshire. 'Outdoor assets' refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public rights of way, permissive paths, Unclassified County Roads, open access land (including commons), cycleways not alongside roads, canal towpaths, verges where relevant and stretches of road and pavement which link the above together• Country parks, heritage sites, nature reserves, other publicly accessible sites, forest with public access <p>It does not cover paid-for visitor attractions, urban and small-scale greenspace or play areas.</p> <p>The document addresses the statutory requirement of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) but is broader reaching; setting out priorities that cover the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of the entire outdoor assets, as described above.</p> <p>Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28 will raise the profile of the exceptional outdoor assets that we have in Shropshire, identify gaps, clarify the opportunities to improve health, wellbeing and community cohesion, the local economy and the environment and bring together partner organisations with similar goals, encouraging more co-ordinated, cost-effective approaches. It will not attempt to duplicate other plans and strategies but will link to them where appropriate.</p> <p>The public sector has seen significant change since the first Countryside Access Strategy (Rights of Way Improvement Plan) was produced in 2008; in particular, the current economic climate and associated budget pressures, economic growth aspirations aiming to significantly increase the population and business base of Shropshire and the growing need for outdoor recreation for health and wellbeing. This is having an impact on the voluntary sector and there is now even greater need to have a clear, evidence-based, and prioritised plan to target limited resources whilst giving the greatest public benefit. A new approach is needed, delivering across multiple policy areas and integrating activity across Local Authority Services and partner organisations.</p>
Intended audiences and target groups for the service change
All residents and visitors to Shropshire could be impacted by this strategy.
Evidence used for screening of the service change
<p>In summary, getting out and about in the great outdoors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Helps increase physical activity, which can reduce the risk of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50% and lower your

risk of early death by up to 30%.

- Increasing accessible open spaces could reduce healthcare costs in the UK by more than £2 billion (equivalent to £10m in Shropshire).
- Reduces stress and anxiety and can help treat acute mental health issues. Stress cost the UK economy £6.8bn in 2014.
- Can help encourage people back into work, through active volunteering.
- Increases social interaction and reduces loneliness.
- Can reduce hospital admissions associated with mental health issues.
- School children benefit from increased educational attainment and reduced anxiety/behavioural issues
- Is free!

Having a high quality outdoors offer:

- Encourages visitors, locally and from away- the total value of visits to the natural environment in Shropshire is estimated at 100-115m per annum.
- Supports 2,200 jobs in Shropshire.
- Increases house prices by up to 20%.

The outdoor assets support important habitats for wildlife and make our cultural heritage accessible. The Marches Ecosystem Assessment, commissioned by the Local Nature Partnership demonstrates that the ecosystem of the Marches provides services worth £14.8 billion.

The sources for this data is shown in appendix 1 of the strategy.

Evidence used has included:

- Natural England-Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) 2015/16
- State of the UK Public Parks, Heritage Lottery Fund (2016).
- Department for Transport's Local Area Walking and Cycling statistics for 2014/15 in England
- Rides of Way- Cycling UK's Off-Road Report 2017
- The British Equestrian Trade Association's National Equestrian Survey (2015) □ Strava mapping
- Outdoor recreation as a potential level for health improvement: A review of the health benefits, barriers and opportunities for the sector. Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)
- University College London (2014) Natural solutions to tackle health inequalities report
- Public Health England- Everybody Active Every Day
- Natural England (2016) Learning in the Natural Environment project
- Plymouth University (2016) Natural Connections Demonstration Project
- Marches Ecosystem Assessment (2016)
- Shropshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Priorities
- Reconomics Plus, Sport and Recreation Alliance 2016
- Visit England (2016) GB Tourism Statistics 2015
- Historic England- Heritage Counts 2015
- Active Living Research (2015)
- Productivity Growth Forecast for Shropshire (1991-2035) □ Shropshire's Great Outdoors website Google Analytics 2017/18 □ Office for National Statistics

- Shropshire Council Key Facts and Figures 2016/17
- 25 Year Environment Plan- Annex 1- Supplementary Evidence report
- UK Biodiversity Indicators 2017, Defra
- Shropshire Council Performance Indicator results for Rights of Way network, volunteering and visitor numbers analysis of this evidence informed the development of the strategy.
- Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Annual User Survey 2016/17

As indicated in the initial screening ESIIA, a public consultation exercise was planned in order to gain wider views, and is the subject of further detail within report being taken to Cabinet with the final proposed Strategy. The consultation ran for 3 months and was well promoted. A range of methods were used to gather feedback. Despite this robust consultation process and methodology there were only 54 responses to the consultation survey and 4 written organisational responses. This reflects that many of the stakeholders were involved in the co-production of the strategy and therefore did not submit comments.

Responses were received from a range of age groups, locations and people with different characteristics, so they appear to be relatively representative of the wider population. The responses received suggest an overall agreement with the contents of the strategy, its targets and priorities. Despite this overall support all the comments will be considered and assist with the next stages of work.

The findings highlighted that, of the 54, 36 (67%) survey respondents had read the strategy document, and as a result were able to make informed comments on the Strategy content. The 4 written responses highlighted that all had carefully read and considered the document

There was a fairly even spread of responses from men and women. Survey respondents tended to be from the 45+ age groups rather than younger ages but there were responses from all age groups with the exception of the 15-19 year old and group and the 85+ age group.

The Great Outdoors Strategy included consideration of access for people with disabilities and so the survey respondents were asked if their day to day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability. The responses highlighted that 8 of the survey respondents have a disability and 4 of those indicated their disability was physical. Respondents did not particularly highlight any access concerns within the survey responses but all comments will be closely considered.

Other characteristics considered to maintain a focus on equality included employment status and ethnicity. The results are shown in Chart 1 and 2 below.

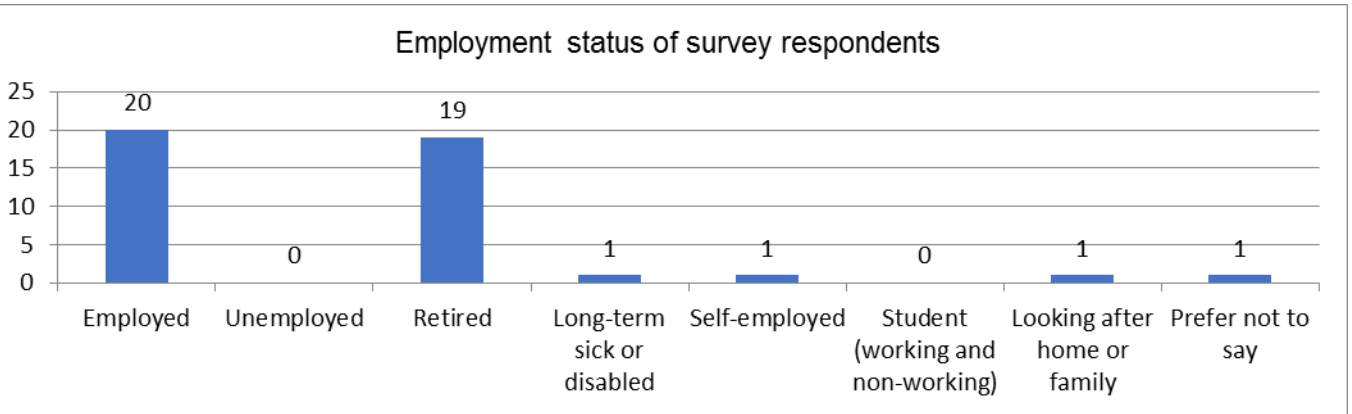
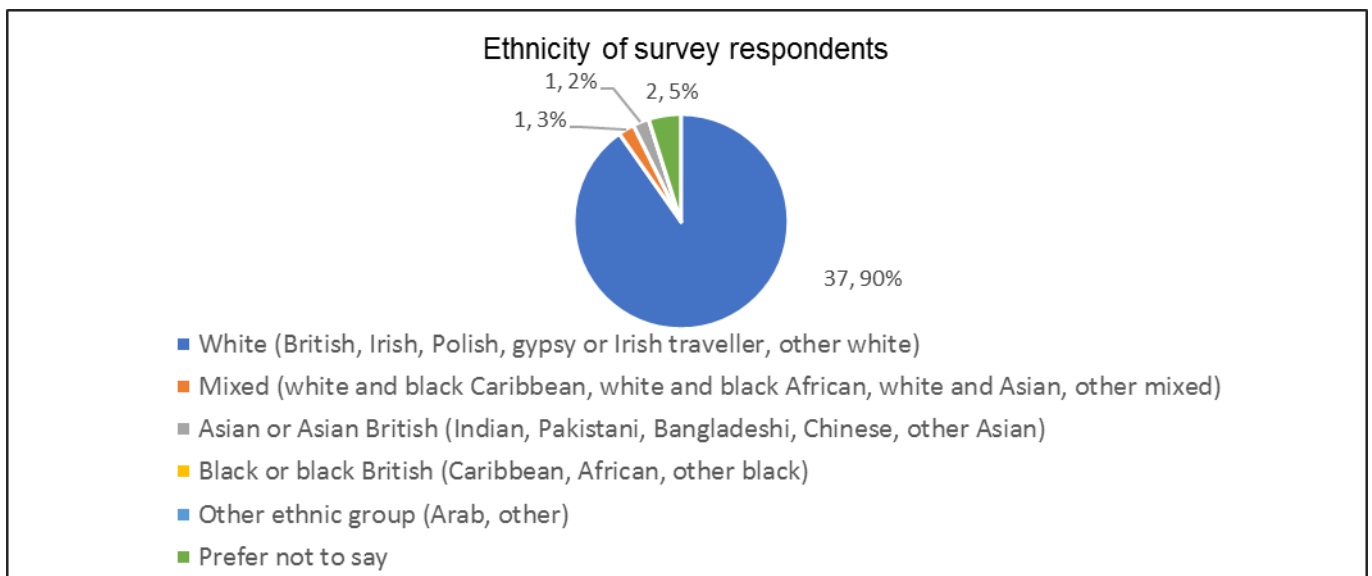


Chart 1- Employment status:

Chart 2 – Ethnicity:



The survey respondents do not all fall within the same categories so are possibly more representative of the whole population.

The home or business location of survey respondents was also gathered to test whether or not people from across Shropshire had the opportunity to participate in the consultation and share their views. Mapping suggests there is a good geographical spread of responses but no responses were received from the rural south west of the county. Comments have been previously gathered from this area at the Shropshire Hills Walking Forum.



Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Working group of key user and landowner representatives helped develop the strategy.

One to one consultation with key partners:

- National Trust
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Canal and River Trust
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- English Heritage
- National Farmers Union
- Country Landowners and Business Association
- Shropshire's Great Outdoor Strategy Board members

Presentations/ workshops with:

- Key stakeholders- volunteers, user group representatives
- Walking forums
- Riding and Carriage Driving Forum
- Towns and Parish Council Forum
- Market town clerks

The draft strategy was subject to 3 month public consultation from the end of April 2018 in order to gain wider views before being presented to the Cabinet for formal ratification.

Gaps identified by respondents to the public consultation:

- A focus on older age groups
- A focus on preventing litter, anti-social behaviour or crime
- Communication - The need for connections between websites and use of social media
- Making connections with other areas and opportunities such as Wyre Forest.
- Sport and health linked to country park use strategy.
- Resources to process lost way claims (to add to the network and promote routes in areas lacking public access).
- Quiet lanes.

Potential impact on Protected Characteristic groups and on social inclusion

Using the results of evidence gathering and specific consultation and engagement, please consider how the service change as proposed may affect people within the nine protected characteristic groups and people at risk of social exclusion.

1. Have the intended audiences and target groups been consulted about:
 - their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;

- the potential impact of this service change on them, whether positive or negative, intended or unintended;
 - the potential barriers they may face.
2. If the intended audience and target groups have not been consulted directly, have their representatives or people with specialist knowledge been consulted, or has research been explored?
 3. Have other stakeholder groups and secondary groups, for example carers of service users, been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?
 4. Are there systems set up to:
 - monitor the impact, positive or negative, intended or intended, for different groups;
 - enable open feedback and suggestions from a variety of audiences through a variety of methods.
 5. Are there any Human Rights implications? For example, is there a breach of one or more of the human rights of an individual or group?
 6. Will the service change as proposed have a positive or negative impact on:
 - fostering good relations?
 - social inclusion?

Initial assessment for each group

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through inserting a tick in the relevant column. Please add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groups and other groups in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
Age (please include children, young people, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group eg child for whom there are safeguarding concerns eg older person with disability)			X Strategy prioritises work with children	
Disability (please include: mental health conditions and syndromes including autism; physical disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; HIV)		X Prioritises Walking for Health, Wild Teams and other health initiatives and easier access		

Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
Pregnancy & Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			X Strategy prioritises work with children and families	
Race (please include: ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, gypsy, traveller)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
Religion and belief (please include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Non conformists;				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
Rastafarianism; Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				
Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings

Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; people with health inequalities; households in poverty; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable)		X Introduction of better greenspace provision, easier access and volunteering		
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Guidance on what a negative impact might look like

High Negative	Significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place or no evidence available: urgent need for consultation with customers, general public, workforce
Medium Negative	Some potential impact, some mitigating measures in place but no evidence available how effective they are: would be beneficial to consult with customers, general public, workforce
Low Negative	Almost bordering on non-relevance to the ESIIA process (heavily legislation led, very little discretion can be exercised, limited public facing aspect, national policy affecting degree of local impact possible)

Decision, review and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Part One ESIIA Only?	X	
Proceed to Part Two Full Report?		X

If Part One, please now use the boxes below and sign off at the foot of the page. If Part Two, please move on to the full report stage.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change

The findings from the public consultation, alongside those from stakeholders, indicated support from the wider community for the strategy and therefore an endorsement of the view taken in the initial ESIA.

This is that the Strategy sets out to have a positive impact across the protected characteristic groupings, particularly the groupings for age, with regard to children, and disability, with regard to all ages and with regard to seen and unseen disabilities. This will itself then include older people, given the ageing demographic profile of the county. A positive impact is also anticipated for groupings including people with caring responsibilities, as well as those at risk of social exclusion. Efforts were made during consultation on the draft strategy to seek views from communities as well as from stakeholders. Impact had not for example been able to be assessed ahead of consultation with regard to race, for people whose first language is not English, including tourists as well as residents. However, some data has now been obtained.

As no responses were received from the rural south west of the county, a proposed action going forward will be to seek to engage with and work with not only rural communities across the county but also those in this area in particular, in order to seek to achieve the Strategy outcomes for all groupings in the community including rural households and businesses.

The Council will also work in particular with the other groupings that were under represented in the survey responses i.e. the 15-19 year olds and the over 85s. This will also help the Council and partners to pick up on equality related matters identified as gaps in the Strategy, which would assist positive outcomes for these age groups as well as for people in the Disability groupings. The Strategy prioritises work with children and young people and with older age groups, so communication and engagement with these groupings is of particular importance.

It is recognised that there will need to be ongoing efforts to engage with people in the protected characteristic groupings. Links may usefully also be made with specific target groups such as children and families, people with mental health problems, and people with physical disabilities, through projects and partnership initiatives already under way. Actions may then be more readily identified from evidence gathered to enhance the positive impact of the strategy for these groupings, leading to better outcomes overall for communities in Shropshire.

Actions set out in the draft strategy include:

- Planning of new developments to include larger, more accessible greenspace and walking and cycling routes
- Launch and development of Healthy Outdoors for Schools, including introduction of the daily mile in primary schools

- Promotion of fully gated routes
- Better all-ability access
- Events and talks
- Increased volunteering opportunities
- Development of buggy walks and activities for families

- School visits to sites to experience the natural environment through walks and activities such as pond dipping
- Daily mile routes on Shropshire Council sites
- New promoted routes/ multi-user routes
- Better promotion using a range of channels and communication mechanisms in recognition that not everyone is online and that some may require information in readily accessible formats or materials

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change

The action plan will be reviewed, with partners, on an annual basis. Key performance indicators will be reported and a progress report published on the Shropshire Council website and shared with Councillors through the Councillors Bulletin and with the public through e-newsletters.

The Annual User Survey will be reviewed and published.

The strategy will be reviewed after 5 years, with a new 10 year plan being published following a full evaluation of the strategy in 2027.

We will liaise with the elected members of the Council as community leaders and with all communities to seek feedback on an ongoing basis about impacts for people in protected characteristic groupings and for those at risk of social exclusion.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

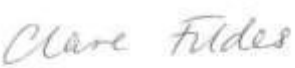
People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer carrying out the screening Clare Fildes Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager	<i>Clare Fildes</i>	15 th September 2018
<i>Any internal support*</i>		
Any external support** Mrs Lois Dale Rurality and Equalities Specialist	<i>Lois Dale</i>	15 th September 2018

Head of service
Tim Jenkins **Culture and Leisure Manager**

***This refers to other officers within the service area**

*****This refers either to support external to the service but within the Council, eg from the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, or support external to the Council, eg from a peer authority***

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i> Clare Fildes Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager		17 th September 2018
<i>Head of service's name</i> Tim Jenkins Culture and Leisure Manager		