

## **Shropshire Council Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA)**

**Name of service change:** *Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28*

### **Contextual Notes 2016**

#### ***The What and the Why:***

The Shropshire Council Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA) approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

This assessment encompasses consideration of social inclusion. This is so that we are thinking as carefully and completely as possible about all Shropshire groups and communities, including people in rural areas and people we may describe as vulnerable, for example due to low income or to safeguarding concerns, as well as people in what are described as the nine 'protected characteristics' of groups of people in our population, eg Age. We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging or delivering services.

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. Carrying out ESIIAs helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes. These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

#### ***The How:***

The guidance and the evidence template are combined into one document for ease of access and usage, including questions that set out to act as useful prompts to service areas at each stage. The assessment comprises two parts: a screening part, and a full report part.

**Screening (Part One)** enables energies to be focussed on the service changes for which there are potentially important equalities and human rights implications. If screening indicates that the impact is likely to be positive overall, or is likely to have a medium or low negative or positive impact on certain groups of people, a full report is not required. Energies should instead focus on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection, enabling incremental improvements and adjustments that will lead to overall positive impacts for all groups in Shropshire.

**A full report (Part Two)** needs to be carried out where screening indicates that there are considered to be or likely to be significant negative impacts for certain groups of people, and/or where there are human rights implications. Where there is some uncertainty as to what decision to reach based on the evidence available, a full report is recommended, as it enables more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

## Shropshire Council Part 1 ESIIA: initial screening and assessment

*Please note: prompt questions and guidance within boxes are in italics. You are welcome to type over them when completing this form. Please extend the boxes if you need more space for your commentary.*

### Name of service change

*Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-28.*

### Aims of the service change and description

Shropshire's Great Outdoors 2018-28 sets out the strategic direction for the management and development of publically accessible outdoor assets across the Unitary Authority area of Shropshire. 'Outdoor assets' refer to:

- 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 publically accessible sites, forest with public access

It does not cover paid-for visitor attractions, urban and small scale greenspace or play areas.

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.

Shropshire's Great Outdoors 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.

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.

### 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

In summary, getting out and about in the Great Outdoors;

- 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 demonstrates that the ecosystem of the Marches provides services worth £14.8 billion.

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

### **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 strategy will be subject to 3 month public consultation from the end of April 2018 before being presented to the Cabinet for formal ratification.

### **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.*

<b>Protected Characteristic groups and other groups in Shropshire</b>	<b>High negative impact</b> <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	<b>High positive impact</b> <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	<b>Medium positive or negative impact</b> <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	<b>Low positive or negative impact</b> <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<b>Age</b> (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	
<b>Disability</b> (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		
<b>Gender re-assignment</b> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			X Strategy prioritises work with children and families	
<b>Race</b> (please include: ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, gypsy, traveller)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings

<b>Religion and belief</b> (please include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Non conformists; Rastafarianism; Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
<b>Sex</b> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				X Impact likely to be neutral or positive for all groupings
<b>Other: Social Inclusion</b> (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		

### Guidance on what a negative impact might look like

<b>High Negative</b>	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
<b>Medium Negative</b>	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
<b>Low Negative</b>	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 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 will be made during consultation on the draft Strategy to seek views from communities as well as from stakeholders. Impact has 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.

It is recognised that there will need to be ongoing efforts to engage with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings, particularly where low levels of responses to public consultation are received. 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
- Work with Community Payback Team
- 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**

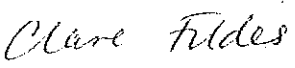
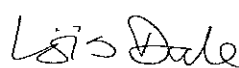
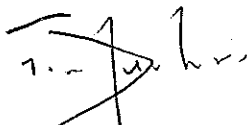
The Action Plan will be reviewed, with partners, on an annual basis. Key performance indicators will be reported and a progress report published on the Shropshire Council website and shared with Councillors through the Councillors Bulletin and with the public through e-newsletters.

The Annual User Survey will be reviewed and published.

A 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.

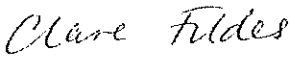
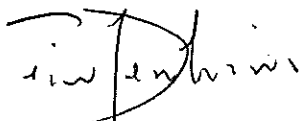
### Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer carrying out the screening <b>Clare Fildes</b> Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager		26 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Any internal support*		
Any external support** <b>Mrs Lois Dale</b> Rurality and Equalities Specialist		25 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Head of service <b>Tim Jenkins</b> Culture and Leisure Manager		27/04/18

\*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
Lead officer's name <b>Clare Fildes</b> Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager		27/04/18
Head of service's name <b>Tim Jenkins</b> Culture and Leisure Manager		27/04/18