

Proposal for Options for Savings – Equality Impact Assessment (Nov 2013)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Bill Cooper

Email address: williamcooper@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Mary Worrall

Chief Officer: Mark Smith

Department: Parks and Countryside

Date: 19/11/13

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Parks and Countryside £850,000 Savings Option for 2014/2015

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Cabinet, date to be confirmed.

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

Section 3: **Does the proposal have the potential to affect.....** (please tick relevant boxes)

√ **Services**

√ **The workforce**

√ **Communities**

√ **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector) Partners such as Parks Friends Groups and other groups who may take on management of sites.

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

 None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All nine protected groups	<p>Negative potential impact - reduction of accessible green and open space would have a negative impact on physical and mental health due to reduced opportunities for exercise, access to nature and relaxation.</p> <p>Every person kept physically active for their life saves on average £40,000 to £50,000 in health service costs. Reducing this activity would increase future costs for public services.</p>	Secure community-based partner management of sites or find alternative use for sites that are beneficial to the community.	Parks and Countryside Head of Service	2014-2015	Reduction in Council maintenance of sites would result in job losses. Officer resources are required for developing partnership management of sites. This would be subject to partners

					having sufficient capacity and funding.
Older people	Negative potential impact - reduction in bowling facilities would impact on people, many of them over 60 who benefit from the physical and mental health benefits of playing bowls as part of a club, including group culture and support.	Secure community-based partner management of sites and/or review and rationalise distribution of bowling facilities.	Parks and Countryside Head of Service	2014-2015	As above.
Socio-economically disadvantaged people	Negative potential impact - reduced accessibility of local green and open spaces to provide affordable and accessible days out, places to exercise and relax and places to enjoy a 'staycation' for those unable to afford to go away on holiday would particularly impact on people on lower incomes. Less people out and about would in turn impact on the local and visitor economy and put jobs in that sector at risk.	Secure community-based partner management of sites or find alternative use for sites that are beneficial to the community.	Parks and Countryside Head of Service	2014-2015	As above.

Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

In reports summarising parks user surveys – addressing both feedback from and response to the surveys.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

N/A.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Natural England – Green Space Access Research Summary
Natural England – Health and Wellbeing Position Statement
Wirral Council Parks and Countryside User Survey 2012

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

Consultation on this option is taking place as part of the Council's What Really Matters public consultation, which runs until December 6th 2013.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Add appropriate departmental hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2b)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 5)
- c) **Send this EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**