



# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (March 2017)

## **Section 1: Your details**

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**Head of Section:** Mike Cockburn

**Chief Officer:** Nicki Butterworth

**Directorate:** Delivery Services

**Date:** 16/04/2020

## **Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?**

**The Wirral Tree Strategy**

## **Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Committee meeting?**

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

The report will be received (on behalf of the Cabinet) by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change – May 2020

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

**Delivery** (Customer Services, Adult & Disability Services, Community Services, Merseyside Pension Fund, Environmental Services)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

**Navigate to Equality Impact Assessments since 2017 – then Delivery Services**

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

x **Services**

x **The workforce**

x **Communities**

x **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

All sectors

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 [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:**

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

**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.**

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
The main consideration relates to socio-economic status and where individuals live within the borough. Secondly, there are potential equality implications for disabled people, people with	Climate change projections suggest we can expect hotter summers and milder winters; drier summers and wetter winters and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, droughts and heatwaves. Whilst these changes will have impacts for everyone, the impacts can often be more severe for sections of the community. The Wirral Tree Strategy will help ameliorate this by both enabling us to mitigate against, and adapt to, climate change. In the first instance, then, the Wirral Tree Strategy will have a net positive effect for residents of Wirral by contributing to the amelioration of global climate change, as well as bolstering Wirral's resilience against the inevitable negative effects of climate change. In this context,	As discussed in previous column: due to pre-existing inequalities of tree stock distribution across the Wirral, the Council will have to ensure that future tree planting is delivered in such a way that improves, and, at the very least, does not exacerbate existing inequalities. This will be particularly key in light to the following factors: a widespread expectation that future tree planting in target urban areas with the least current tree stocks; and, the predictable pressure to	The strategy and associated action plans will be governed and monitored by a board of WBC representatives and key partners. Specifically the governing board's membership will include a member of	2020-2030	The Wirral Tree Strategy will require use of existing resources, as well as capital funding bids, where necessary.

<p>existing health conditions, young children, older people, people on low incomes, and socially isolated people.</p>	<p>having an up-to-date, local tree strategy supported by key local stakeholders is considered to have a positive impact compared to not having a fully supported strategy in place, and, as such, should benefit all affected groups. However, the strategy's success in this regard will depend on how it is implemented across the Borough. For instance, current tree stocks (both urban and woodland) are much more extensive in the more affluent areas of west and south Wirral; whereas the more socio-economically deprived areas in east Wirral, on the other hand, have far fewer tree stocks. Implementing the Tree Strategy, therefore, presents an invaluable opportunity to address these inequalities across the borough and ensure a fairer distribution of tree stocks across the borough. At the same time, some of the most affluent areas in Wirral are also the most exposed to significant flood risk (e.g., Hoylake, Leasowe, Meols, Moreton and West Kirby). In order to maximise the benefits for all Wirral residents, then, it will be crucial that these two considerations are balanced when making decisions on the locations for tree planting. This will, therefore, be an important concern and success indicator for the tree strategy board to take into consideration in the decision-making process.</p>	<p>focus tree planting in more affluent areas (which currently have some of the best access to trees) of the Borough in order to bolster resilience against tidal flooding. To mitigate against any negative impacts, and to ensure that trees are fairly distributed across the Borough, it will be important for the Tree Strategy Board to maintain an awareness of these factors and take all decisions in mind of them.</p>	<p>the Council's Cabinet, chief officers, representatives from the Climate Emergency Team, Planning, Parks &amp; Countryside Services and Highways, local stakeholders such as Wirral Initiative for Trees (WIT) and agencies such as the Woodland Trust and Tree Council.</p>		
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**Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

The strategy and action plans will be living documents and will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Wirral Tree Strategy Board. The governing board including a member of the Council's Cabinet, chief officers, representatives from the Climate Emergency Team, Planning, Parks & Countryside Services and Highways, local stakeholders such as Wirral Initiative for Trees (WIT) and agencies such as the Woodland Trust and Tree Council. Any changes in equality impact will be recorded and reviewed.

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

The Strategy will aim to bring net positive impacts to the borough in the immediate and longer terms. Any negative effects from the strategy would arise from failure to implement effectively, e.g., using resources to plant urban trees in the more affluent areas of the borough at the expense of the more socio-economically deprived areas of the borough. Where possible, the Strategy will seek to redress the current imbalance in tree distribution across the Borough.

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

Cool Wirral Partnership (2019) *Rapid Sustainability Appraisal of the Wirral Climate Change Strategy, December 2019.*  
Wirral Intelligence Service (2018), *Wirral JSNA, Climate & Health*, October 2018  
HM Government (2017) *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017*  
Wirral Council (2014) *Local Climate Change Impact Profile.*  
Bates, G., Chadborn, N., Jones, L. and McVeigh, J. (2011) *The Impact of climate change upon health and health inequalities in the north west of England*, Centre for Public Health.

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

No

**If 'yes' please continue to section 7.**

**If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:**

The new strategy was subject to a series of engagement activities involving partner organisations and the wider public. This process included a survey associated with a

consultation draft of the strategy. Please see the Tree Strategy's Appendix 2 – Consultation Summary Report for further details.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

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

As above.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to 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 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing.

## **Section 8: Have you remembered to:**

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**