

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Please read the EqIA GUIDANCE and the EqIA flow chart available on KNet.

Directorate: GET

Name of policy, procedure, project or service

Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review

What is being assessed?

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer

Denise Roffey

Date of Initial Screening

18.2.13

Update each revised version below and in the saved document name.

Version	Author	Date	Comment
1	Colin Finch	18.2.13	Previous EQIA
2	Denise Roffey	18.08.17	Initial submission
3	Denise Roffey	22.2.18	Update
4	Denise Roffey	25.5.18	Update
5	Denise Roffey	18.6.18	Update
6	Denise Roffey	31.10.18	Update following public consultation 20 th June – 12 th September 2018

Screening Grid

Public Consultation (20th June – 12th September 2018) During the public consultation the ROWIP was available as a detailed document and in an Easy Read format. Both of these were available online, and paper copies were available to read at all libraries in Kent. We also provided a questionnaire to facilitate feedback on the ROWIP in different formats which included the following:

- Online version to complete and submit electronically.
- Online version printed and completed as a paper copy.
- All libraries received paper copies of the detailed and Easy Read versions of the ROWIP and paper copy questionnaires were available to the public.
- We also provided the option to send a paper copy of the detailed or Easy Read version of the ROWIP and questionnaire through the post.

The response from the public consultation was high with a total of 2476 downloads of the document itself and a total of 362 questionnaires were completed and submitted or sent back.

As part of the questionnaire we provided the public with an option to complete information about themselves. We asked if the ROWIP was easy to read and provided a copy of the EQIA completed on 18.06.18, and asked an open ended question for feedback on this document. 309 respondents said that the ROWIP was easy to read and overall the feedback on the EQIA was positive and 12% of the respondents said that they agreed with the EQIA, that is was thorough/complied and covered all aspects.

Please see results from the public consultation in the table columns titled '**Results from Public Consultation Feedback**' below.

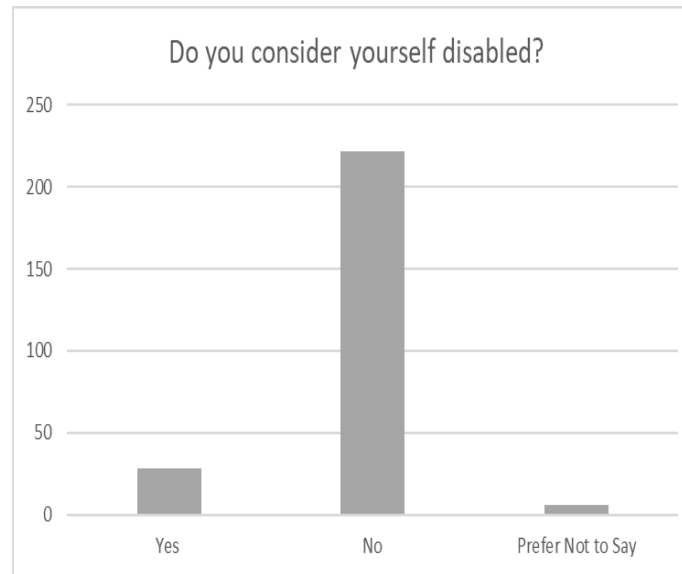
Characteristic	Could this policy, procedure, project or service affect this group less favourably than others in Kent? YES/NO If yes how?	Assessment of potential impact HIGH/MEDIUM LOW/NONE UNKNOWN		Provide details: a) Is internal action required? If yes what? b) Is further assessment required? If yes, why?	Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group? YES/NO - Explain how good practice can promote equal opportunities
		Positive	Negative	Internal action must be included in Action Plan	If yes you must provide detail
Age	No	Medium	None	<p>The Public Rights of Way (PROW) network is used by a variety of age groups which vary from parents with children and babies to elderly walking groups.</p> <p>Under-represented groups that are less likely to visit the countryside, are the younger and older age range groups. MENE research shows that those aged between 19 and 25 and those over the age of 65 were least likely to have visited the outdoors in the previous 7 days. The results from the market research completed in 2017 showed that the 16 – 24 age group was underrepresented, especially in the online group with only 1% of the respondents but also in the Kent resident group with only 9%. The 25 – 34 and the 75 + age groups were also underrepresented in the online group with only 7% and 5% of the respondents respectively. Overall most of the respondents were between the ages of 45 – 64 years of age.</p> <p>To encourage these under-represented groups to visit the countryside and use the PROW network we must address the barriers preventing use. Market research results showed that in the Kent resident non-user group the younger age groups were not interested in using the PROW network or take alternative means of transport. The results also showed that a lack of information acted as more of a barrier for the younger age groups. This was consistent with the results from the question 'What would encourage use?' where a significantly higher proportion of 16 – 34 years old users in the Kent</p>	<p>Yes. In order to break down barriers for the underrepresented age groups we need let people know what is available to them through better promotion and sharing of information. More accessible information and increasing knowledge & confidence has been identified as a need from the analysis of our market research, which includes young and older age groups to encourage use.</p> <p>Policy promotes provision of accessible routes to encourage Active Travel, and facilitate access to green space, to provide physical and mental health and well-being benefits for all age groups.</p> <p>Policy also sets specific objectives to remove age related barriers to improve accessibility and increase use of the PROW network in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No authorisation of new stiles on the network, work with landowners to remove stiles and ensure least restrictive access. • Improve maintenance of network, further improve vegetation clearance, fingerpost and way marking maintenance.

			<p>resident group answered 'information'.</p> <p>The way that people access information varies between age groups, although it will depend on the individual's preference, market research results showed that a significantly higher proportion of the younger age groups 16 – 44 used the phone apps and the older age groups 55 + used maps and guides.</p> <p>Results from the market research showed that when looking at age sub groups for the PROW user groups, a higher percentage of those aged 55 + in the Kent resident group found poor maintenance of stiles/gates and surface, overgrown vegetation and difficult terrain the biggest barriers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using data from market research, look at different ways PROW information can be tailored to reach our customers to encourage use, looking at specific groups including young and old age groups. • Consider all types of information including online, phone apps, maps and guides in order to reach different age groups. • We will also look to gateways to the PROW network to encourage wider use beyond the Country Parks and Honey Pot sites, improving the PROW network around areas and facilities with high leisure use. Promote and provide better signed circular routes to increase confidence in wider use.
			<p>Results from Public Consultation Feedback</p> <p>Results from the public consultation showed that the main age groups that responded to the questionnaire were between 35 – 74 years of age, with the most respondents being in the 65 – 74 age group. Results from all respondents are shown in this chart.</p>	

				<p style="text-align: center;">Which age group applies to you?</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for 'Which age group applies to you?' chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Number of Respondents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>0-15</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>16-24</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>25-34</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>35-49</td><td>39</td></tr> <tr><td>50-59</td><td>61</td></tr> <tr><td>60-64</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>65-74</td><td>71</td></tr> <tr><td>75-84</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>85+</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Prefer not to say</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We received a number of responses to the open-ended question about this EQIA which related to age, the main comments included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not everyone uses a computer and older people still want paper maps and leaflets. • Consideration needs to be given to the fact that Kent has an ageing population. • Improved disabled access also provides better access for the older age groups. • Need to work with schools to get younger age groups interested in the PROW network. 		Age Group	Number of Respondents	0-15	1	16-24	3	25-34	8	35-49	39	50-59	61	60-64	42	65-74	71	75-84	24	85+	3	Prefer not to say	5
Age Group	Number of Respondents																										
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Disability	No	High	None	<p>Results for the Market Research completed in 2017 showed that indicated they had a disability were far less confident in their knowledge of PROW.</p> <p>Stiles act as a barrier to people with mobility issues limiting the network available to them and preventing access to certain areas. Results from the market research showed that other barriers to use included</p>	<p>Yes. Policy promotes provision of most accessible 'routes for all' where possible to do so, to encourage Active Travel, and facilitate access to green space, to provide physical and mental health and well-being benefits to all users.</p> <p>Policy includes a summary of research</p>																						

				<p>overgrown and poorly maintained paths.</p> <p>The results also showed that there is a correlation between increased use of the PROW Network and access to information.</p>	<p>undertaken and sets out a series of objectives to resolve issues identified.</p> <p>Objectives have been set within the ROWIP to remove barriers and increase the accessibility of the PROW network and ensure accompanying material is accessible to all in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve accessibility through maintenance of network, further improve vegetation clearance and work with landowners to remove stiles and ensure least restrictive access. • Using data from market research, look at different ways PROW information can be tailored to reach our customers, looking at specific disabled and visually impaired user groups. • Keep communication open with specialist user groups. Provide updates of specific improved routes to user groups.
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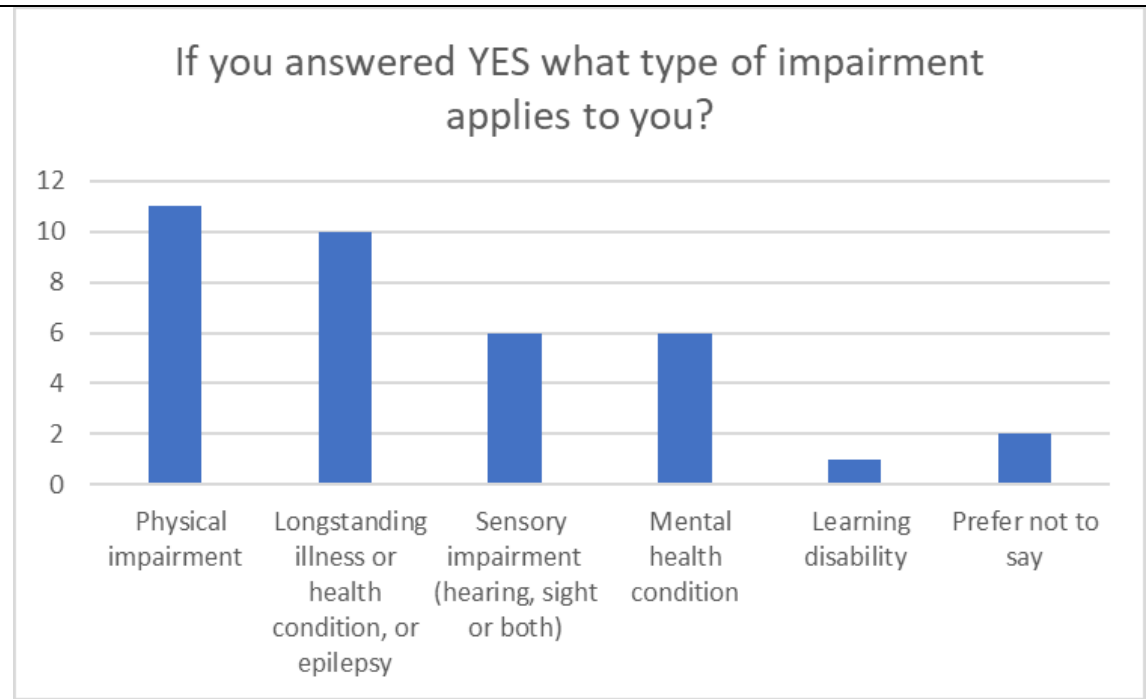
Results from Public Consultation Feedback



The majority of the respondents did not consider themselves to be disabled, full results are shown in this chart.

Of the respondents that did consider themselves to be disabled, physical impairment and longstanding illness were the most common type of impairment selected.

The table below shows the full results of the types of impairment selected when the public were asked this question.



We received a number of responses to the open-ended question about this EQIA which related specifically to disability. The most common response was the need to make routes accessible for more types of user. Suggestions included:

- More disabled access gates.
- Removal of stiles.
- Better access points, including dropped kerbs.
- Better surfaced routes.
- Wheelchair friendly routes.

There were concerns over the safety of routes for more vulnerable users, which included speed of traffic, conflict of users and dogs on routes.

Other comments related to how the Service provides information and there were suggestions of audio aids, non-written information to suit low level literacy and the need for more accessible

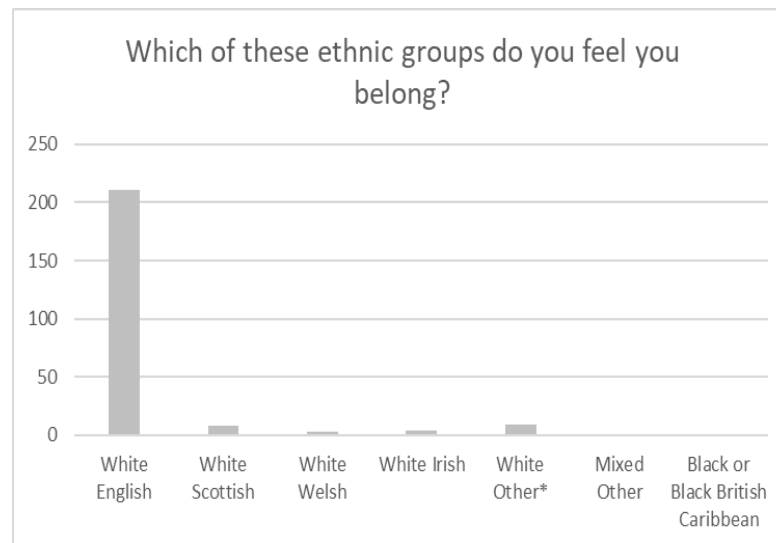
				information in general.	
Gender	No	Low	None	Results from the Market Research showed that male 'users' and 'users' aged 55 and over were more confident when compared with female respondents.	<p>Yes. Policy includes a summary of research undertaken and sets out objectives to resolve issues identified.</p> <p>Objectives have been set within the ROWIP to remove barriers and increase the accessibility of the PROW network and to ensure that accompanying material is accessible to all.</p> <p>The results showed that there is a correlation between increased use of PROW the network and access to information. Using data from market research, we will look at different ways PROW information can be tailored to reach our customers to encourage use, looking at gender specific groups.</p>
				<p>Results from Public Consultation Feedback</p> <p>Results from the public consultation showed that there was almost a 50/50 split between male and female respondents with 46% women, 52% men and 2% preferring not to say.</p> <p>The were no comments from the open-ended question about the EQIA that related specifically to gender.</p>	
Gender identity	No	None	None		
Race	No	Low	None	<p>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Groups</p> <p>In Kent there is higher proportion of Kent's ethnic population living in urban Dartford and Gravesend. Living in these areas alone will make access the countryside due to the cost, time and transport</p>	Yes. The PROW and Access service will aim to make information more accessible and increase knowledge & confidence for BAME groups and ensure promotional material will be appropriately targeted to

			<p>issues less likely and MENE research has shown that BAME populations which do visit the outdoors are more likely to visit urban locations and places closer to home.</p> <p>Results for the Market Research completed in 2017 showed the following when comparing white and BAME groups who responded to the questionnaire.</p> <p>BAME more males responded than females.</p> <p>Significantly more younger age groups in the BAME groups form 16 - 44 responded (70% compared to 36%), whereas in the white groups more, older 55-75+ responded (46% compared to 8%).</p> <p>A slightly higher percentage of the BAME group visited urban areas and slightly less visited woodland and nature reserves.</p> <p>A higher percentage of white groups would visit further afield from areas of open space they visit, compared to BAME groups.</p> <p>There was a slightly higher percentage of the BME respondents that would go further afield if they knew where the route led. Therefore, lack of information acted more of a barrier to BAME groups.</p> <p>There were less respondents in the BAME groups that were confident in their knowledge of PROW with almost half of the BAME having no knowledge at all compared to the white group (48% and 19% respectively).</p> <p>There was less confidence in knowledge of PROW near their homes, with 32% of respondents of the BAME groups having no knowledge at all, but higher percentage of this groups had enough knowledge for their needs.</p>	<p>BAME groups and provided in alternative formats and languages as necessary.</p> <p>Policy sets an objective to establish better promotion of the service to BAME groups that are currently “under-engaged” in access to the countryside.</p>
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			<p>There was a higher percentage of respondents that were not confident where to find information and almost half of the BAME group (46%) had no knowledge at all.</p> <p>There were a higher percentage of the BAME group that had little or no knowledge of what they were allowed to do on a PROW with over half (52%) having no knowledge at all. This was also the same for knowledge of the countryside code, map reading and using a PROW without a map, with 46% and 48%, 46% respectively, having no knowledge at all.</p> <p>How both groups wanted to find out information about PROW was very similar, with website and emails being top answers. The library, word of mouth, tourist information centre and twitter were not preferred options to find out information about PROW for the BAME group.</p> <p>Other barriers may include cultural differences, as some communities may not have the cultural habit of going to the countryside and may not be aware of opportunities available to them, or may simply lack interest or confidence.</p> <p>Overcoming barriers is key to encouraging use for these underrepresented groups. The Defra report 'Outdoors for All?'¹ suggests various actions that local authorities could take, which include making sure promotional material is available in a range of formats and languages, avoiding stereotypes, working in partnership with a range of organisations and establish community outreach organisations extending staff and volunteer awareness and diversifying volunteer profile.</p>	
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¹ Outdoors for All? Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2008)

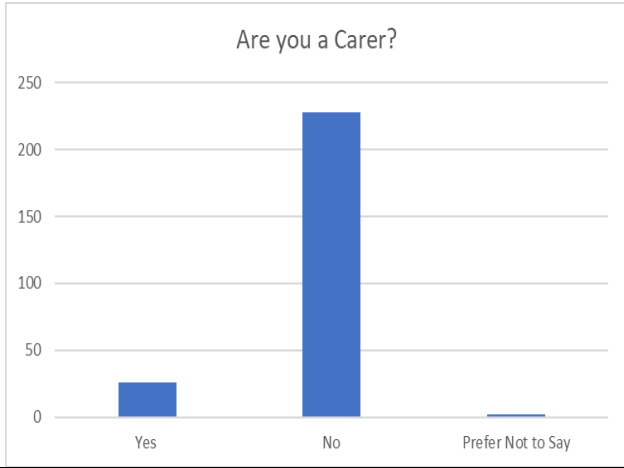
Results from Public Consultation Feedback



Results from the public consultation showed that the large majority of respondents were White English as shown in the chart.

There were no comments made regarding race specifically, although comments were made about providing information about the PROW network and promoted routes in different languages to cater for foreign tourists.

				<p>Results from Public Consultation Feedback</p> <p>Results from the public consultation showed that the large majority of respondents were White English as shown in the chart.</p> <p>There were no comments made regarding race specifically, although comments were made about providing information about the PROW network and promoted routes in different languages to cater for foreign tourists.</p>	
Religion or belief	No	None	None		
Sexual orientation	No	None	None		
Pregnancy and maternity	No	Medium	None		Yes. Policy promotes provision of accessible routes and provision of facilities to encourage outdoor recreation for families. Policy also sets specific objective to improve the accessibility of the access network, associated information and supports school transport strategies and the availability of local accessible green space.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	No	None	None		

Carer's responsibilities	No	Medium	None		Yes. Policy sets out a series of objectives to improve access to outdoor recreation and information about opportunities for outdoor recreation. Therefore providing carers and their dependants with greater opportunity for and access to active, outdoor recreation. Where possible information will include details of rest stops and toilet facilities.							
				Results from Public Consultation Feedback  <table border="1"> <caption>Are you a Carer?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>230</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer Not to Say</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	Yes	25	No	230	Prefer Not to Say	5
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Part 1: INITIAL SCREENING

Proportionality - Based on the answers in the above screening grid what weighting would you ascribe to this function

Low	Medium	High
Low relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.	Medium relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a Judgement.	High relevance to equality, /likely to have adverse impact on protected groups

State rating & reasons

Medium relevance Impact likely to be positive, market research is currently taking place and further information will be available for analysis. Analysis will help define objectives which will further influence our screening grid and help produce positive impacts.

Following completion of Market Research the ROWIP will have a Medium Positive Impact.

Context

Following the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, a duty was placed on Kent County Council to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan and to update this plan every 10 years. The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Increase the usage and enjoyment of Kent's public rights of way and open green space;
- Support Kent's regeneration by delivering improvements which will contribute to a better environment
- Provide opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.
- Provide a gateway to explore Kent's heritage, wildlife and iconic landscapes,
- Improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of Kent.

The Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Access Service is reviewing its plan and carrying out market research to ascertain the current use of the rights of way network and how it needs to evolve over the next 10 years to meet the needs of Kent's residents and visitors.

Aims and Objectives

We need to answer three key questions

- 1. What is the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public?**
- 2. What are the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area?**
- 3. What is the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems?**

In responding to the questions we must consider the following:

- access to the countryside or a particular viewpoint, feature or attraction
- access to woodland as well as other land types and to improve provision for cyclists, horse riders and disabled users
- routes to support tourism, regeneration or community projects
- alternative routes for cyclists, horse riders and walkers to avoid using busy roads
- circular routes for leisure use, e.g. walking, running, cycling
- paths and routes by water or the sea which need repairing
- crossings over roads, railways, rivers and canals
- existing rights of way, e.g. those that end in cul-de-sacs or that have different rights along their length
- routes for local journeys, e.g. walking to work, the shops, railway stations
- routes to help people travel through or around heavily developed areas

Kent County Council's Public Rights of Way and Access Service is reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will be consulted on in 2018.

The policy sets out a strategy to improve Public Rights of Way and wider access to open space for the next 10 years. The document supports a number of internal and external strategies relating to Health, Sustainable Transport, Development sites, Rural Economies and Recreational Tourism. All relevant policy links will be identified in the main document.

Policy will also address the current financial reductions to the Services budget and sets a prioritisation for maintenance.

Beneficiaries

Residents and visitors to Kent.

Consultation and data

The Plan itself will be thoroughly researched using a combination of the following.

- Literature Review
- Market Research / Stakeholder Survey/Focus Groups
- MOSAIC profiling of the Services customers.
- Fragmentation Analysis

Statute determines that the Plan also researches the use and demands of specific community groups including, Walkers, Cyclists, Equestrians, disability and BME. We will be using the analysis of the research undertaken to set out specific objectives to make positive changes for the customer.

The Draft Plan will be made publically available in multiple formats; online, and hard copies retained at the PROW and Access Service offices for viewing.

The consultation will be directly sent to previously identified interested parties. The consultation will be communicated online, via social media and local newspapers.

Potential Impact as identified (please see screening grid above)

Age – Medium

Disability – High

Gender and Race – Low

Adverse Impact: None

Positive Impact:

Overall, delivery of the Plan would result in a high positive impact for all characteristics. Through the initial market research completed in 2017 and the proposed “Draft” for consultation, as many customers as possible will have opportunities to input into this customer facing Plan.

JUDGEMENT

Option 1 – Screening Sufficient

NO

No. As the Draft version of the Plan will undertake a full public consultation a Full Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

Justification:

In depth research is currently being undertaken and will be evidenced within the Draft Plan.

Option 2 – Internal Action Required

YES/NO

Option 3 – Full Impact Assessment

YES

Yes. As the Draft version of the Plan will undertake a full public consultation a Full Impact Assessment will be undertaken.

Equality and Diversity Team Comments

Sign Off

Senior Officer



Signed:

Name: GRAHAM RUSLING

Job Title: Head of Public Rights of Way and Access Date: 19 June 2018

DMT Member

Signed:

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

Part 2: FULL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer:

Denise Roffey / Graham Rusling

Date of Full Equality Impact Assessment:

Scope of the Assessment

Set out what the assessment is going to focus on, as directed by the findings from your initial screening

Information and Data

State what information/data/research you have used to help you carry out your assessment

Involvement and Engagement

Provide details of all the involvement and engagement activity you have undertaken in carrying out this assessment and summarise the main findings

Judgement

Set out below the implications you have found from your assessment for the relevant diversity groups. If any negative impacts can be justified please clearly explain why.

Action Plan

Provide details of how you are going to deal with the issues raised in judgement above and complete the Action plan at the end of this document

Monitoring and Review

Provide details of how you intend to monitor and review progress against the above actions

Equality and Diversity Team Comments

The Equality and Diversity Team to make any comments following their review.

Sign Off

I have noted the content of the equality impact assessment and agree the actions to mitigate the adverse impact(s) that have been identified.

Senior Officer

Signed:

Name:

Job Title:

Date:

DMT Member

Signed:

Name:

Job Title:

Date:



Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Protected Characteristic	Issues identified	Action to be taken	Expected outcomes	Owner	Timescale	Cost implications