



# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021 )

## **Section 1: Your details**

**EIA lead Officer:** Anthony Bestwick

**Email address:** anthonybestwick@wirral.gov.uk

**Head of Section:** Matthew Humble

**Chief Officer:** Nicki Butterworth

**Directorate:** Neighbourhood Services

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

### **Approval of the Wirral Allotments Partnership Strategy 2021-26**

Wirral Allotment Partnership Strategy reviews Wirral Council's Allotment provision with the overall intention of providing allotments throughout the borough, in the most cost-effective manner.

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

**Yes / No**                      **If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

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

**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)

Plot holders, charitable organisations, Site Secretaries, allotment Society

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.

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	<b>Positive Impact:</b> There have been a number of studies undertaken around the benefits of maintaining an allotment for individuals, as well as how sites impact on the local area and natural environment; with results detailing reductions in depression and anxiety, improved social functioning and even increased opportunities for vocational development, amongst other benefits.		Anthony Bestwick		
Race	<b>Positive impact:</b> We will work with Wirral Change to seek to open allotments for all sections of the community.		Anthony Bestwick		
Disability	<b>Positive impact:</b> We are working with Wirral MIND and Wirral Evolutions on improving access for all, with the provision of raised beds. The challenge would be the provision of suitable areas within existing allotment	In existing sites, look to take the opportunity, when plots become available, of considering converting to areas of raised beds. As	Anthony Bestwick		

	<p>sites. Positive impact: Undertake Access for All assessments and look to improve signage.</p>	<p>part of new sites, raised beds will be part of the design.</p>			
All	<p><b>Positive Impact:</b> Market Research has been undertaken and has confirmed that against the bench-marked sites, fees and charges for allotments are competitive. To support the socio-economic of the community, Wirral offers concessions through the Wirral Passport, including 50% reduction for residents who are aged 60 and over.</p>		<p>Anthony Bestwick</p>		

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

Above actions will be monitored monthly by Team Leader and General Manager, and the Working Group.

**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?**

<https://wirralenvironmentalnetwork.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/01/Cool2WirralClimateStrategyByCoolWirralPartnershipPDF.pdf>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/growing-community-second-edition>

Allotments Act 1908,1925,1950, Wirral Council plan 2025

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

**Yes / No** – (please delete as appropriate)

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

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

(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?**

Site Secretary Meeting – November 2021

Allotment working Party- Ongoing

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?**