

# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021 )

## **Section 1: Your details**

**EIA lead Officer:** Colin Clayton

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**Head of Section:** Matthew Humble

**Chief Officer:** Nicki Butterworth

**Directorate:** Neighbourhood Services

**Date:** 4th February 2021

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

Pollinator Pilot – including re-wilding (cessation of maintenance) of amenity greenspace and highway verge public open spaces and reduced frequency of grass cutting, including ‘No Mow May’ and Pollinator sites.

## **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)

Friends Groups, Wirral Parks Partners, Volunteers

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 will be a positive impact arising from the decrease in use of fossil fuel burning mowing machines, leading to increased air quality on average.  |  | Matthew Humble | On Going  | N/A                   |
| All  | <b>Positive Impact</b> – There will be a positive impact from the diversification of the types of amenity greenspace moving towards increased bio-diversity and encouraging wildlife back into urban areas creating greater access to wildlife areas for all groups |  | Matthew Humble | On Going  | N/A                   |
| All  | <b>Negative impact</b> – There is a potential negative impact from a reduction in green amenity space for certain types of activity.  | The Plans will be implemented with Members and the Community in order seek to meet the best possible selection of areas for rewilding / pollination. | Matthew Humble | On Going  | N/A                   |

|   |  |   |                |         |                         |
|---|--|---|----------------|---------|-------------------------|
|   |  | Support will be provided to encourage Members and Community Groups to take over their local open amenity spaces to manage in a way that aligns with the Pollinator Strategy that also meets their local needs for open space.                                     |                |         |                         |
| Disability:<br>Asthma sufferers, 'Hay Fever' sufferers. | <b>Negative Impact</b> – A negative impact may arise for asthma sufferers and those with 'hay fever' due to increased levels of pollen from unmown grass / pollinators. Although it is important to note, the initial research carried out by PollerGEN regarding cutting and pollen does state that it requires further research to analyse the impact it may have on health. | On Wirral's website we will advise residents that there is a reduced grass cutting regime in place and that there may be higher levels of pollen during certain periods of the year and that they should check the pollen count and plan their visit accordingly. | Matthew Humble | Ongoing | Officer engagement time |
| Disability:<br>Blind and Partially sighted              | <b>Negative Impact</b> – There is a potential negative impact in that longer vegetation will hide potential hazards (e.g. dog faeces, trip hazards), especially to those in this group   | The Plans will be implemented with Members and the Community in order seek to meet the best possible selection of areas for rewilding / pollination.  | Matthew Humble | Ongoing | Officer engagement time |

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

Above actions will be monitored monthly by the lead officer

**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?**

Children, older persons, and those from poorer Socio-economic status are relatively more frequent users of their local Parks and Open Spaces.

In considering the issues identified in 4 the Service Management Team have engaged with the Public Health Team and The Climate Emergency Team in forming the recorded considerations.

**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?**

Public consultation on this proposal took place from 21st December 2020 – 22nd January 2021, as a part of the Council's budget proposals, which included online and virtual community outreach consultation.

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 its 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?**