

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Project Title: Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest

Environmental Planning



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

STAGE 1: What is being assessed and by whom?

<p>What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?</p>	<p>Plymouth's natural capital is key to the growth and social and environmental wellbeing of the city. The Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest will stretch from the heart of the city to the edge of the moor. It will encompass 1,900 hectares of tree planting amongst a much wider landscape to form a mosaic of different forest habitats within the urban and rural areas. It is a long-term project with 30-40 year objectives with an ambition to deliver 550 hectares of new forest creation in the first 5 years. The new planting will be on both public and private land with a landowner offer formed to provide the Community Forest to act as a grant awarding body under landowner agreements.</p> <p>Delivery against the ambition of 550 hectares of planting will see the project secure £9.692m from the Trees for Climate Fund for this and the next three financial years.</p>
<p>Responsible Officer</p>	<p>Chris Avent</p>
<p>Department and Service</p>	<p>Green Estate, Environmental Planning, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure</p>
<p>Date of Assessment</p>	<p>07/03/2022</p>

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact

Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
Age	Access to the public green spaces being used in the Community Forest will continue to be open to all age groups and the additional investment raised and subsequent site improvements will include improving access infrastructure for all abilities where appropriate.	No adverse impact, all age groups will have increased opportunity to visit green spaces as a result of the Community Forest.	N/A	N/A
Disability	Access to monitoring forms and networks that are developed will conform to the requirements of the Equality Act and recommended guidelines for users with a disability. Improvements will comply with the Equality Act and recommended guidelines for users with a disability	No adverse impact of the project. The project will be accessible to all abilities.	N/A	N/A
Faith, Religion or Belief	Christian: 58.1% Islam: 0.8% Buddhism: 0.3%	No adverse impact The project will be accessible to all faiths,	N/A	N/A

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact				
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	Hinduism: 0.2% Judaism: 0.1% Sikhism: <0.1% No religion: 32.9%	religions and beliefs.		
Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	Overall 50.6% of our population are women; this reflects the national figure of 50.8%. There will be no gender barrier to being involved in this project.	No adverse impact, there will be no barriers to involvement based on gender.	N/A	N/A
Gender Reassignment	Access to being involved in the project will not be limited by gender reassignment.	No adverse impact, there will be no barriers to involvement based on gender reassignment.	N/A	N/A
Race	White (all): 96.1% Mixed (all): 1.3% Asian (all): 1.5% Black (all): 0.7% Other: 0.4% The project will be open	No adverse impact, the project will be open to all to participate regardless of race.	N/A	N/A

STAGE 2: Evidence and Impact				
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact?	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible?
	to all to participate regardless of race.			
Sexual Orientation -including Civil Partnership	The project will be open to all to participate regardless of sexual orientation.	No adverse impact, the project will be open to all to participate regardless of sexual orientation.	N/A	N/A

STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken		
Local Priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible?
Reduce the inequality gap, particularly in health between communities.	The project is a city-wide provision and will provide enhancements on public spaces with free open access for all and improvements will actively enhance the surrounding environment for all.	This work will commence in 2022 and will be delivered by the Green Estate Team.
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion).	The project will require input from all user-groups and both design and enhancements will involve as many community members as possible	This work will commence in 2022 and will be delivered by the Green Estate Team.
Human Rights	This service recognises Article 14 of Human Rights Act – The right to receive Equal Treatment and prohibits discrimination including sex, race, religion and economic and social status in conjunction with the Equalities Act which includes age and disability.	N/A

STAGE 3: Are there any implications for the following? If so, please record 'Actions' to be taken		
Local Priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible?
	<p>All staff and service users will be treated fairly and that their human rights will be respected.</p> <p>No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.</p>	

STAGE 4: The Principles of Fairness	
Principles	Comment
People should be able to access opportunity whatever their circumstances	The use and enjoyment of the public spaces improved by the Community Forest will remain open to all.
The city should give priority to those in greatest need when it allocates resources	The project will be open to all and will give equal weight to the information provided to it by all members of society. Improvements will take into account the needs of all users and promote equality of access.
Things that make the biggest difference to people's lives should get priority when deciding where resources go	The project will ensure that the people of Plymouth will have access to high quality natural spaces and play benefitting from the associated health and social benefits
The way things are done in the city matters just as much as what is done	The project will actively provide opportunity for local stakeholders to contribute to the design of sites.
Unfairness which takes time to remove needs policies for the long term	Access to and enjoyment of all sites is open to all and is fair for all.
Preventing inequalities is more effective than trying to eliminate them	The project will work on the premise of preventing inequality within communities by providing opportunity for all to be involved.
Services should be provided 'with' people, not 'for' them	Input from the community will be vital in the delivery of this project in order to ensure the improvements meet their needs. The community will be involved at each level of governance for the Community Forest.
The needs of future and current generations should be balanced when making	The Governance of the project will have representation from a range of age

decisions.	groups with a key focus on young people.
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STAGE 4: Publication			
Head of Service approving EqIA.	Kat Deeney	Date	07.03.2022