

Equality Analysis Form

By completing this form you will provide evidence of how your service is helping to meet Stroud District Council's General Equality duty:

The Equality Act 2010 states that:

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have **due regard** to the need to –*

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are listed in Question 9

Stroud District Equality data can be found at: <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity/>

Please see Appendix 1 for a good example of a completed EIA.

[Guidance available on the HUB](#)

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s): Simon Maher	Telephone:
	E-Mail: simon.maher@stroud.gov.uk
Service: Planning Strategy	Date of Assessment: 15/3/22

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WALKING AND CYCLING TASK & FINISH GROUP

Is this new or an existing one? **New / Existing** (please delete as appropriate)

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The Walking and Cycling Task & Finish Group met three times between September 2021 and January 2022 with the role to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for the District (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions. The Terms of Reference of the Group identified 6 functions which were discussed at the meetings. A series of actions was derived from these

discussions.

4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)

The delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure within the District requires working in partnership with local parishes, cycling and walking groups and accessibility groups. A key partner in delivery will be Gloucestershire County Council as the highway authority, and author of the Local Transport Plan, and emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).

5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

The delivery of accessible walking and cycling infrastructure will benefit all residents of Stroud District by providing a sustainable travel option for shorter journeys. This in turn will bring health and well-being as well as economic benefits to residents. A reduction in car use for short journeys will bring environmental benefits through the reduction in car emissions.

6. What outcomes are expected?

The recommendations made by the Task and Finish group are designed to fulfil the purpose of the group i.e. to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the district (as issued by Gloucestershire County Council), and to help realise Stroud District Council's wider Active Travel ambitions.

7. What evidence has been used for this assessment? (eg Research, previous consultations, Inform (MAIDEN); Google assessments carried out by other Authorities)

Inform (Maiden)

A Guide to Inclusive Cycling (Wheels for Wellbeing, 2019)

Inclusive City Cycling. Women: Reducing the Gender Gap (Sustrans, 2018)

8. Has any consultation been carried out?

Yes

Details of consultation

The formation of the group, and its terms of reference was agreed at Environment Committee on 21st September 2021. It was agreed during the discussion at this meeting that the issue of equalities and inclusivity would be overseen by the Chair and Vice Chair of the group.

As well as Stroud District Councillors, 2 external groups were invited to have a representative within the group, those being Stroud Valleys Cycling Group and Stroud Active.

The Group put out a request to town and parish councils and known local walking and cycling groups to submit existing and potential future projects to improve the walking and cycling network. This was an information gathering exercise, not a formal request for bids for funding. A total of 37

projects were submitted by Parish and Town Councils, including 16 walking projects, 9 cycling, and 12 covering both walking and cycling.

If NO please outline any planned activities

N/A

9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

(Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty;

Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty;

Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure)

Protected Group	Type of impact, reason and any evidence (from Q7 & 8)
Age	<p>There were 120,903 residents in Stroud in 2020, approximately 12% more than 2001. This is below the county average of 13%.</p> <p>The proportion of people aged 65+ (22.2%) exceeds the County and national average of 21%. The second most common household composition is 'pensioner households' standing at 24.4% of households - 3.7% higher than the average for England.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.1 of Appendix A states that the District Council should: <i>“Ensure that the equality considerations arising from walking and cycling projects are taken into account at an early stage in the planning and design process – including consulting with representative groups”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 4.1 of Appendix A states that the District Council should: <i>“Invite representatives from local walking and cycling groups, local accessibility groups and health & wellbeing community groups to future Council meetings on mobility matters”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.6 of Appendix A states that the District Council should: <i>“Support Bikeability to provide cycling initiatives within the District with a focus on building confidence...”</i></p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Disability	<p>17% of residents in Stroud had a limiting long term illness/disability (LLTI) in 2017. This compares to 18% across England.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group identified accessibility and the legibility of routes as two of the most important physical constraints to walking and cycling.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.1 of Appendix A states that the District Council should:</p>

	<p><i>“Ensure that the equality considerations arising from walking and cycling projects are taken into account at an early stage in the planning and design process – including consulting with representative groups”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 4.1 of Appendix A states that the District Council should: <i>“Invite representatives from local walking and cycling groups, local accessibility groups and health & wellbeing community groups to future Council meetings on mobility matters”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.6 of Appendix A states that the District Council should: <i>“Support Bikeability to provide cycling initiatives within the District with a focus on building confidence...”</i></p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Gender Re-assignment	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon gender re-assignment groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Pregnancy & Maternity	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon pregnancy and maternity groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Race	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon different race groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Religion – Belief	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon religious groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Sex	<p>A study by Sustrans in 2018 highlighted a gender gap between the number of men and the number of women who choose to cycle in “Bike life” cities. Safety and inadequate infrastructure were seen as two of the main barriers. Safety was identified as a key constraint by the Task and Finish Group (see para. 2.2.1 of report). The delivery of better walking and cycling infrastructure in the district, especially that which meets LTN1/20 design guidance, would be a step towards removing these barriers.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Sexual Orientation	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon sexual orientation groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.

Marriage & Civil Partnerships (part (a) of duty only)	The Findings and Recommendations of the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group is expected to have a neutral impact upon married and civil partnership groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Rural considerations: le Access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband;	Stroud is a predominantly rural district which presents challenges to active travel through connectivity and topography. The delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure utilising the recommendations made by the Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group will create more accessible active travel connections between settlements, urban centres, employment sites and transport hubs. Potentially positive impact.

10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 9, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?

Please transfer any actions to your Service Action plan on Excelsis.

Action(s):	Lead officer	Resource	Timescale
N/A			

Declaration

I/We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function * (delete those which do not apply) and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment

Completed by: Simon Maher	Date: 21/03/2022
Role: Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer	
Countersigned by Head of Service/Director: Mark Russell, Head of Planning Strategy	Date: 21/03/2022

Date for Review:

Please forward an electronic copy to eka.nowakowska@stroud.gov.uk