



Form to be used for the initial assessment (Equality Impact Assessment)

Service Area: Leisure and Parks 135	Section: Parks & Open Spaces	Key person responsible for the assessment: S. Fitzsimmons	Date of Assessment: 28 th November 2012	
Is this assessment in the Corporate Equality Impact assessment Timetable for 2012/ 13?			Yes February 2013	No
Name of the Policy to be assessed: Oxford City Council Green Spaces Strategy 2013-2027			Is this a new or existing policy	Existing

<p>436</p> <p>1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “To provide world-class parks and open spaces to enhance the quality of life of everyone living, visiting or working in Oxford.” • The aims, which link to the Councils priorities in the Corporate Plan for 2011-2015: “Investing in Oxford’s Future” are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a standard of green space provision to ensure that Oxford has an agreed amount of green spaces to meet existing and future needs of residents, workers and visitors • To ensure everyone living, working and visiting in Oxford has easy access to open space • To achieve high quality green spaces across Oxford, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions • To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the City’s biodiversity, sustainability, heritage and culture • To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city’s health and well-being • To support community cohesion and community involvement in the design and stewardship of green spaces
<p>2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy, please explain</p>	<p>The Green Space Strategy covers all public available green space across the City regardless of ownership.</p>
<p>3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and in what way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of all Parks and Open Spaces in Oxford; • Local tax payers • Visitors and Tourists

4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection, creation and improvement of a network of high quality open spaces in Oxford. 			
437	5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general economic climate. Oxford City Council has no direct influence on the accessibility to green spaces outside of our ownership, therefore maintaining or improving accessibility on those facilities outside of our control could be a potential barrier. To prevent this occurring, officers need to ensure that dialogue remains open with the various sectors to keep those existing accessible green spaces open and to explore additional spaces becoming accessible. Maintaining the hectares and standard of open spaces could present a potential threat to Oxford City Council, which would be a direct result of the loss or reduction of the maintenance budget. The budget needs to be safeguarded and developer contributions secured. The switch from planning gain under Section 106 to the new Community Infrastructure Levy in 2013 will require understanding of the full implications and technicalities.
	6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxford City Council; Councillors; Facility users; Residents. 	7. Who implements the policy and who is responsible for the policy?
8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups.		Y	N

<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. There is no differentiation for any group with protected characteristics. We aim to have high quality, accessible open space available across the city serving all communities.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>	
<p>9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p> <p>438</p>	<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. There is no differentiation due to gender. The facilities, sports and activities offer facilities attractive to both sexes.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>	
<p>10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due disability</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>

<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. The need to provide specialist access works are incorporated in policies and plans.</p> <p>The www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com website as this contains “The Oxford on the Level” (for disabled and mobility impaired visitors) and Town Green walks.</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities are tailored to the individual.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>	
<p>11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to sexual orientation</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. There is no differentiation due to sexual orientation.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>	

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12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their age	Y	N	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. There is no differentiation due to age. We currently do and plan to continue to provide a range of facilities which are likely to be attractive to all different age groups.</p> <p>Forever Fit (50 years and over) is part of the Go Active initiative aimed at older people. Youth Zone (5-18 years) is part of Go Active initiative for younger people.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>		
13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on people due to their religious belief	Y	N	

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What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?		<p>Parks and Open Spaces are freely available and open to all. There is no differentiation due to religious belief.</p> <p>Oxford City Council does not discriminate or restrict access to their services on the grounds of; Age, Disability, Gender, Reassignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race/ethnicity, Religion or Belief, Sex (gender) and Sexual Orientation (Equality Act 2010). The council are committed to equality and diversity and to ensure that services are reflective and responsive to local need.</p>			
14. Could the differential impact identified in 8-13 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy	Y	N	<p>There is a range of opportunities available to people in order to access green spaces, including the aspiration to maintain council owned parks to national Green Flag standards and a number of infrastructure improvements. There is also a full programme of Go Active fully inclusive activities as well as strong and effective partnerships with other landowners such as BBONT and the Oxford Preservation Trust to influence the opening and future development of other green spaces.</p>		
15. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason	YES	N	n/a		
16. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment	Y	NO	If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed to a full EIA	Y	N

			Date on which Partial or Full impact assessment to be completed by			n/a
17. Are there implications for the Service Plans?	YES	NO	18. Date the Service Plan will be updated	Process starts October 12	19. Date copy sent to Equalities Officer in Policy, Performance and Communication	28.11.2012
20. Date reported to Equalities Board:	n/a		Date to Scrutiny and EB	n/a	21. Date published	n/a

Signed (completing officer): Stuart Fitzsimmons **Signed (Lead Officer)** Ian Brooke
Please list the team members and service areas that were involved in this process:
Leisure Service: Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Head of Leisure and Parks
Human Resources: Jarlath Brine (Equalities & Diversity Business Partner)

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