



Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

1. Topic of assessment

EIA title	Countryside Savings 2017/18
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EIA author	Lisa Creaye-Griffin
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2. Approval

	Name	Date approved
Approved by		

3. Quality control

Version number	0.1	EIA completed	
Date saved		EIA published	

4. EIA team

Name	Job title	Organisation	Team role

5. Explaining the matter being assessed

<p>What policy, function or service is being introduced or reviewed?</p>	<p>This EIA covers a wide range of savings and therefore at this stage detailed impacts of all of them cannot be assessed. Only the wider impacts are outlined and EIAs for individual areas of work will be worked up with the individual plans.</p> <p>Reducing the contribution to partnership work in the Countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to SWT to reduce by £100K in 2017/18 • Reduction in contribution to hosted partnerships • Contribution to non-hosted partnerships to stop: GGP and BVCMP • Reduce the revenue budget for Rights of Way work by £190K
<p>What proposals are you assessing?</p>	<p>The impact of the reductions on the delivery of the countryside and access service to the public</p>
<p>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</p>	<p>The public who visit the countryside and potentially those who benefit from some of the activities run by the hosted and non-hosted partnerships. The latter has included work engaging people with mental and physical disabilities. There is likely to be less capacity to engage so many groups.</p> <p>Maintenance of the rights of way network will be impacted as with less money some of improvements, such as replacing stiles with kissing gates will have to be put on hold to focus on the basic maintenance.</p>

6. Sources of information

Engagement carried out

Discussions with SWT and regular monitoring meetings to assess the impact and develop income generating projects to replace the reduced contribution from SCC.

As the Business Plans and Business cases come forward they will need to be considered individually to assess the impact.

Data used

Annual reports from the Partnerships

Annual report from Countryside Access setting out the work carried out on the RoW network

Data collected by the SWT for the KPIs and SDS in the Agreement with SCC.

7. Impact of the new/amended policy, service or function

7a. Impact of the proposals on residents and service users with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	Increased role for volunteers of all ages and abilities in countryside access and on the countryside estate	Reduced maintenance of the RoW network may make restricted access for some people.	The new SWT structure and the work of the Countryside Access Team will allow more volunteers to become engaged providing there is the capacity to lead/supervise that work.
Disability	The volunteer co-ordinators employed by SWT in their new staff structure may be able take on more engagement work.	Reduced capacity of the partnerships to engage with disabled groups. Reduced maintenance of the RoW network may make restricted access for some people.	
Gender reassignment			
Pregnancy and maternity		May be some reduction in accessibility to some countryside paths	
Race		Lack of staff to engage new audiences	
Religion and belief		Lack of staff to engage new audiences	
Sex			
Sexual orientation			

Marriage and civil partnerships	N/A		
Carers (protected by association)			Blue badge holders will not be charged but we have received representations that some carers of people with dementia do not have blue badges and would therefore have to pay. This may have a negative impact but there is no direct evidence currently.

7b. Impact of the proposals on staff with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age			
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion and belief			
Sex			

Sexual orientation			
Marriage and civil partnerships			
Carers (protected by association)			

There are no specific impacts on staff except as members of the public.

8. Amendments to the proposals

Change	Reason for change

9. Action plan

Potential impact (positive or negative)	Action needed to maximise positive impact or mitigate negative impact	By when	Owner
Car parking charges introduced at Newlands Corner	Monitor the use and invite responses from those who may have been negatively impacted There are small car parks which allow access to part of Newland Corner where no charge will be made	2018/19	SWT
Some RoW may have to be closed until funds can be found to repair them, structures in need of repair on a RoW are most likely to cause paths to be closed	To where possible ensure there are alternative routes	2017/18 as and when	Lisa Creaye-Griffin

10. Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated

Potential negative impact	Protected characteristic(s) that could be affected
Impact of parking charges on people with low incomes may disproportionately affect people with disabilities, and carers	Disabled without a blue badge Carers without a blue badge
Inability to maintain some paths will adversely impact people who aren't able to walk so well	Disability

11. Summary of key impacts and actions

<p>Information and engagement underpinning equalities analysis</p>	<p>Engagement with public around the specific project at Newlands Corner (covered by a separate EIA) This provided a good feel for the generic issues with charging for parking.</p>
<p>Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics</p>	<p>Key negative impacts are the lack of staff time to engage with people who don't normally visit the countryside, which would include people with disabilities. The likelihood that some paths would be closed and an inability to replace stiles and make the paths more accessible. Positive impact may be the increase in public engagement through volunteer tasks.</p>
<p>Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA</p>	<p>We plan to monitor the impact and make adjustments as the impacts become apparent.</p>
<p>Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts</p>	<p>To make clear on the website what can and can't be done, to discuss the impacts with the Surrey Countryside Access Forum (SCAF) and seek their advice. SCAF is the statutory forum which provides advice to the County Council and other public bodies on access issue in the County.</p>
<p>Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated</p>	<p>The reduction in access to more remote parts of the countryside cannot be mitigated at this stage as they require more funding. Some paths will never be completely accessible because of the natural topography and ground conditions.</p>