

Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

What is being reviewed?	BCP Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy
What changes are being made?	Recommendation to Cabinet to approve the Strategy
Service Unit:	Environment
Participants in the conversation:	Martin Whitchurch – Strategic Lead Green space and Conservation Janna Bloice – FPA Project manager
Conversation date/s:	On-going alongside Strategy development as part of Future Parks project from April 2021. Screening tool commenced August 2022.
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	Yes – the GI Strategy relates to everyone in BCP and our visitors. Providing high quality parks and green spaces are the focus, but it relates to all green and blue spaces, BCP-owned or otherwise, along with streets, public realm and private areas, such as industrial estates or school grounds.
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	<p>Yes, there will be a range of needs and experiences of Green Infrastructure, some people will be really engaged and involved in their local green spaces, others will not pay them any attention at all.</p> <p>The purpose of the GI Strategy is to ensure our assets are providing the best possible function for everyone, whether they make use of it or not. For example, ensuring our green spaces, streets and urban areas have sufficient tree cover to keep us cool and absorb storm water will positively affect everyone.</p> <p>The 4 Goals of the strategy are:</p> <p>Goal 1. Encourage healthy living and well-being This goal is about building happy, connected and healthy communities, and supporting active lifestyles and well-being, across the city region through investment in green infrastructure to address health inequalities in line with our Health and Well-Being Strategy. We want to inspire more people, from all backgrounds, ages and abilities, to engage with nature and spend more time in green and blue spaces in their everyday lives for recreation, exercise, social interaction, experiencing and caring for nature, community food-growing and gardening. This goal is also about adopting nature-based solutions for improving local air quality in line with our Clean Air Strategy, and reducing noise pollution</p> <p>Goal 2. Strengthen resilience to climate change This goal will support delivery of the council's pledges within the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan</p>

	<p>by strengthening resilience to climate change through natural solutions.</p> <p>It is about keeping the conurbation cool, its air clean and protecting water quality and areas vulnerable to flooding. The goal also includes mitigating climate change through natural approaches to carbon storage and sequestration and supporting low carbon travel.</p> <p>Goal 3. Support nature recovery and biodiversity This goal is about supporting nature recovery and biodiversity to tackle the ecological emergency, by creating space for nature through targeted habitat restoration, creation and expansion to strengthen ecological connectivity and improve species recovery. Informing and supporting private landowners through best practice is also a key aim of this goal.</p> <p>Goal 4. Support economic recovery, prosperity and placemaking Investment in green infrastructure has a fundamental role to play in delivering the council's vision for the future.</p> <p>The Green Net can underpin the Big Plan's ambitious projects for helping the city region bounce back bigger, bolder, and better from the pandemic. High quality parks, green spaces and public realm are critical to the area's iconic cityscape and seafront and shaping the rejuvenation of Poole town centre. Embedding green infrastructure into new development and transport infrastructure can also support the council's ambitions</p> <p>Therefore, the GI Strategy applies to all protected groups: age (young/old), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, members of the armed forces community and any other factors/groups e.g. socioeconomic status, carers, human rights.</p>
<p>Will this change affect any service users?</p>	<p>Not specifically.</p>
<p>What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?</p>	<p>As described in the goals above, the benefits will be for everyone in an improved environment, with climate change being mitigated, opportunities for nature and people's health and well-being improved.</p>
<p>What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?</p>	<p>None identified.</p>
<p>Will the change affect employees?</p>	<p>Positively as BCP should be a better place to work.</p>

Will the change affect the wider community?	Yes, as described above
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	None identified from the Strategy itself. Actual interventions will be site specific improvements based on local consultation, views and opinions.
Summary of Equality Implications:	The GI Strategy is a positive piece of work that should improve the quality of our spaces for all users, and indirectly for non-users. It is therefore not felt to contain any significant negative equality implications. However, future work should ensure that as elements of the Strategy are delivered, they consider individual impacts and return to further EIA assessments.