

Equality Impact Assessment: *Anti-Intrusion Measures to Public Open Space*

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name and date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Executive 10/03/2020	Anti-Intrusion Measures to Public Open Space	Seeking funding to carry out works to reinforce the boundaries of parks and green spaces across the city which are considered to be at risk of vehicular intrusion and occupation.	Gypsies and travelling people

Factors to consider in the assessment: For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low**

assessment is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	Negative	Medium	<p>Whilst a Devon County Council run traveller site is provided in Sowton, there is a lack of temporary stopping places in Exeter for Gypsies & Travelling people, which in the past has led to the unauthorised use of local authority sites as temporary stopping sites.</p> <p>The proposals will reduce the accessibility of public spaces, and therefore their use as unauthorised temporary stopping places.</p>
Age (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	Positive	High	<p>There is a positive impact on the children of the local settled community being able to use the green spaces freely.</p>

Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion

It is considered that no mitigation measures are required. The current use of Parks and Green Spaces as a temporary stopping place is unauthorised and therefore trespassing. The proposal will not impact on the availability of pitches at the site in Sowton, nor will it remove any legal stopping places from use.

Doing nothing and leaving the public open space available for illegal incursions remains an alternative option.

Officer:

Date: