

## Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA)

**EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.**

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users<sup>1</sup>. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups<sup>2</sup>

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.<sup>3</sup>

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

### Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed

<b>Title</b>	The Green & Stones Orchard Management Plan	<b>ID No</b>	LL010
<b>Team/Service</b>	Leisure & Natural Infrastructure		
<b>Focus of EIA</b>	<p>A new five-year management plan has been developed for The Green &amp; Stones Orchard in Croxley Green.</p> <p>The new plan contains management actions over the next five years from financial year April 2025 until March 2030. The detailed actions relate to habitats and wildlife improvements for biodiversity and improvements to public access and signage.</p> <p>The aims of the management plans are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Welcoming Place – To provide a welcoming green space for the enjoyment of the local community, finding a balance between biodiversity and public access.</li><li>• Healthy, Safe and Secure – To provide and maintain clear and safe public access onto, and around The Green and Stones Orchard</li><li>• Well-maintained and Clean – To ensure that all aspects of The Green and Stones Orchard are kept clean and well maintained</li><li>• Environmental Management – To ensure all aspects of site management are undertaken with sustainability as a guiding principle</li><li>• Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage – To conserve and enhance the important wildlife, landscape and heritage feature of The Green and Stones Orchard</li></ul>		

<b>Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations</b>	
The aims of the site management plans will be to improve the condition and management of the sites for the benefit of people and wildlife including but not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining clear entrances and pathways facilitating active travel for all. Including keeping entrances sufficiently wide ensuring that people using mobility aids can access the site and reducing/mitigating hazards along the paths quickly. Additionally, through the aspirational action of a more formalised path, year-round accessibility may be enhanced following consultation with the public and stakeholders.</li> <li>- Appropriately managed site furniture (mainly bins and benches)</li> <li>- Opportunities for public events</li> <li>- Improved site interpretation to inform in varying forms including onsite and online.</li> <li>- Habitat enhancements</li> </ul>	
<b>Potential Issues</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
In the event that the management plans are not adopted there is a potential risk of site deterioration. The minimal management would therefore take place which may reduce physical accessibility and reduce opportunity to visit a valuable calm/quiet greenspace resource.	Recommendation to committee is to approve the site management plan following public consultation
<b>Actions Planned</b>	
All associated actions are outlined within section 8.0 DELIVERING AIMS & OBJECTIVES of The Green & Stones Orchard Management Plan document.	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must be sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

**Equality Impact Assessment officer:** Jess Hodges

**Date:** 22.07.2025

**Equalities Lead Officer:** Shivani Davé

**Date:** 30/07/2025

#### **Guidance end-notes**

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<sup>1</sup> The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.

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- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process.
- Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
  - No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

## **<sup>2</sup> Our duties in the Equality Act 2010**

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership) in addition, TRDC recognises other communities may be vulnerable to disadvantage, this includes carers, people experiencing domestic abuse, substance misusers, homeless people, looked after children, (ex) armed forces personnel.

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact on people with protected characteristics (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with protected characteristics – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other

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- activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

**<sup>3</sup> EIAs are always proportionate to:**

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.