

Equality Analysis Form

By completing this form you will provide evidence of how your service is helping to meet Stroud District Council's General Equality duty:

The Equality Act 2010 states that:

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have **due regard** to the need to –*

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are listed in Question 9

Stroud District Equality data can be found at: <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity/>

Please see Appendix 1 for a good example of a completed EIA.

[Guidance available on the HUB](#)

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s): Mark Russell	Telephone:
	E-Mail: mark.russell@stroud.gov.uk
Service: Planning Strategy	Date of Assessment: 26/07/22

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

CANALS VISION & STRATEGY

Is this new or an existing one? **New / Existing** (please delete as appropriate)

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

The Council Plan identifies the need to develop a long term vision and strategy for the canals network in the District to ensure projects maximise opportunities to achieve broader social, economic and environmental objectives. A long term strategy will provide the strategic direction for the future and provide a framework for an evolving detailed action plan. An effective canals strategy with a powerful narrative will also provide the platform to make effective future funding

bids to Government and other funding bodies. The intention is to adopt the canals strategy as a design focussed supplementary planning document, supporting the delivery of Policy ES11 of the Stroud District Local Plan. This will give the document weight within the planning system and ensure that all future developments within the canals corridor take account of and reflect the contents of the Strategy.

4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)

Local planning authorities can produce and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents, to build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. These documents need to be prepared in accordance with Local Plans regulations and statements of community involvement.

5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

The Strategy is promoting the canal network as a thoroughfare, an attraction, a centre of activity and a unique recreational space: -

- Connecting communities and social groups
- Overcoming other barriers to make the canal inclusive and accessible
- Acting as a catalyst for future growth to the benefit of local communities
- Bringing people together to catalyse community building, economic activity and nature recovery

6. What outcomes are expected?

- Increase in footfall
- Positive change in perceptions of place (business, residents and visitors)
- Increase in business investment
- Positive change in business sentiment
- Improvement in the health of residents (physical and/or mental)
- Increase in the number of visitors to cultural venues
- Increase in the number of cultural events
- Increase in the audience numbers for cultural events
- Increase in cycle flow
- Increase in pedestrian flow
- Mode shift from car to active travel
- Improvement in air quality

7. What evidence has been used for this assessment? (eg Research, previous consultations, Inform (MAIDEN); Google assessments carried out by other Authorities)

Inform (Maiden)

Online survey responses

Inclusive Public Spaces (Urban Design Group, 2021)

Inclusive City Cycling. Women: Reducing the Gender Gap (Sustrans, 2018)

The Inland Waterways, towards greater social inclusion (Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council, 2014)

8. Has any consultation been carried out?

Yes

Engagement during the preparation of the document included initial engagement with key stakeholders, followed up by 1-2-1 interviews or “clinics” with over 20 organisations. A stakeholder workshop was held in July 2021 which explored via interactive workshop sessions setting goals for the canals network to be incorporated into the Strategy. A Town and Parish Council event was held in October 2021 which presented material on progress with the Strategy focussed on the areas represented at the meeting and asked for feedback on a forthcoming public questionnaire survey. Public engagement commenced in November 2021 with an online survey seeking to find out what people's experiences are of using the canals in the district.

Public consultation was carried out between 21 February 2022 and 27 May 2022. This included publishing material on the Council’s website and at local libraries and at town and parish council offices open to the public. A Consultation Report has been produced. At the close of public consultation, the Council had received 115 representations from individuals and stakeholders including Active Gloucestershire, Canal & River Trust, Environment Agency, Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Historic England, National Highways, Natural England, Stroud Valleys Project, Woodland Trust.

If NO please outline any planned activities

N/A

9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

(Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty;

Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty;

Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure)

Protected Group	Type of impact, reason and any evidence (from Q7 & 8)
Age	<p>There were 120,903 residents in Stroud in 2020. The proportion of people in Stroud aged 65+ (22.2%) exceeds the County and national average of 21%. The second most common household composition is ‘pensioner households’ standing at 24.4% of households - 3.7% higher than the average for England. However, national research suggests only 16% of visitors to towpaths are 65 years and older.</p> <p>Whilst the Strategy itself does not identify specific projects, a number of the site opportunities identified and ingredients support ways of improving pedestrian accessibility and mobility for those traveling along the canal corridors and between settlements.</p> <p>Site opportunities and ingredients support projects to create new and improved public spaces, including tree planting and grass. Spaces with trees and grass offer better play opportunities for children than places without such landscape elements. Ingredients promoting the canals as a classroom resource provide an opportunity to engage further with schoolchildren.</p>

	Potentially positive impact.
Disability	<p>17% of residents in Stroud had a limiting long term illness/disability (LLTI) in 2017. This compares to 18% across England. In 1999 the Fieldfare Trust reported that the resources committed to encourage participation in water recreation presupposed that those with disabilities took part less often than the general population.</p> <p>A number of the site opportunities identified and ingredients support ways of improving pedestrian accessibility and mobility for those traveling along the canal corridors and between settlements and improving access to water for local residents. These have potential to benefit those people with a physical disability.</p> <p>The restoration of the canals, the creation of improved public realm, enhancing biodiversity through tree planting and rewilding, and social prescribing is likely to improve the mental wellbeing of visitors to the canal corridor.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Gender Re-assignment	The Canals Strategy is expected to have a neutral impact upon gender re-assignment groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.
Pregnancy & Maternity	<p>A number of the site opportunities identified and ingredients support ways of improving pedestrian accessibility and mobility for those traveling along the canal corridors and between settlements and these are likely to benefit pregnant women and parents/guardians with very young children.</p> <p>The creation of quality open spaces, improved public realm and the planting of trees and flowers is likely to improve the mental wellbeing of parents/guardians with very young children.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Race	<p>Canal related surveys in Blackburn and Birmingham indicate that those from Asian communities are both less likely to visit canals and have a more negative perception than those from white or black communities.</p> <p>The range of site opportunities and ingredients identified in the Canals Strategy seek to improve community engagement with the canals, including the creation of community events and hubs.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
Religion – Belief	The Canals Strategy is expected to have a neutral impact upon religious groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.

<p>Sex</p>	<p>National data indicates more men than women visit canals and, because of the fear of crime, women are less likely than men to visit parks and other open spaces. A study by Sustrans in 2018 highlighted a gender gap between the number of men and the number of women who choose to cycle in “Bike life” cities. Safety and inadequate infrastructure were seen as two of the main barriers.</p> <p>Urban design ingredients supporting frontage development, lighting and natural surveillance within the canal corridor in urban areas have the potential to reduce the fear of crime. A number of the site opportunities identified and ingredients support ways of improving active travel including cycling for those traveling along the canal corridors and between settlements.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p>The Canals Strategy is expected to have a neutral impact upon sexual orientation groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.</p>
<p>Marriage & Civil Partnerships (part (a) of duty only)</p>	<p>The Canals Strategy is expected to have a neutral impact upon married and civil partnership groups. No specific impacts have been identified either through consultation or through equality analysis.</p>
<p>Rural considerations: le Access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband;</p>	<p>Stroud is a predominantly rural district which presents challenges to active travel through connectivity and topography. The delivery of more active travel routes utilising the canal towpaths will create more accessible connections between Gloucester, Stroud and Stonehouse centres (foci of cultural and commercial activity and transport hubs) and adjoining rural communities.</p> <p>Potentially positive impact.</p>

10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 9, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?


Please transfer any actions to your Service Action plan on Excelsis.

Action(s):	Lead officer	Resource	Timescale
N/A			

Declaration

I/We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function * (delete those which do not apply) and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment

Completed by: Mark Russell	Date: 11/08/2022
Role: Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development	
Countersigned by Strategic Director of Place 	Date: 11/08/2022

Date for Review:

Please forward an electronic copy to eka.nowakowska@stroud.gov.uk