

Scottish Borders Council

Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment – Start Up

	Title of Proposal:	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
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	Service Area: Department:	Regulatory Services
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	Description:	<p>The Local Biodiversity Action Plan was originally approved by the Council in 2001, with further detail under the plan being provided by a series of Habitat Action Plans produced between 2003-2010. The LBAP forms one of the key elements of the Council's Biodiversity duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which provides a framework of actions for the Council and its partners to further the conservation of biodiversity in Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was originally published in 2004, and was updated in 2013 adopting an ecosystem approach. The Council's regional pilot land use framework, produced under the Land Use Strategy pilot (2013-2015) tested an ecosystem approach and is applied to the refresh of the LBAP. The LBAP is identified as proposed Supplementary Guidance in the Local Development Plan and informs the Council's Supplementary Guidance for biodiversity.</p> <p>The review seeks to bring the Local Biodiversity Action Plan up to date to reflect national policy and seeks to reduce the pressure on biodiversity locally, and to create opportunities to enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>At this stage of the assessment it is anticipated that the actions and subsequent outcomes are likely to produce positive results that enhance our varied local landscapes of the Scottish Borders which are valued by those who reside, visit or which</p>
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		<p>to invest in the area. However, we are also mindful that for various reasons some members of the public's access to the internet (where the action plan and associated documents will be published) may be limited. To mitigate this, access points will be varied and in addition on request the documents can be made available in different formats - including printed copies.</p> <p>Given the operational context and for the purpose of this stage of the equality impact assessment against the action plan and not to be repetitive impacts identified so far for the equality groups below are recorded as a collective. As the Equality Impact Assessment progresses through its various stages and where it becomes relevant that there may be differing aspects to be considered for a protected characteristic these will be referenced and addressed accordingly.</p>
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<p>Relevance to the Equality Duty in Summary:</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">What impact will your proposal have on the following : <i>(After considering all the available evidence what impact do you believe the implementation of this proposal will have in relation the Equality Duty?)</i></p>	
<p>Equality Duty</p>	<p>Reasoning:</p>
<p>Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i></p>	<p>At this stage of the process it is envisaged that the revised action plan will be relevant to the Equality Duty resulting in a perceived overall positive impact.</p>
<p>Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i></p>	
<p>Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the council's relationships with those who have equality characteristics?)</i></p>	

Which group of people may be impacted (both positively and negatively) if the proposal is advanced?					
Equality Characteristic	Impact			Description	Mitigation & Recommendations
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact		
All of the protected characteristics including Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion and or belief, Sexual Orientation and the associated themes of Carers and Poverty		√	√ (Low)	<p>Positive benefits may arise for communities who have been engaged where projects are implemented</p> <p>The Plan is designed to meet the needs of our diverse community and will assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality of place • Protecting and enhancing natural heritage and environmental resources while seeking to provide opportunities for improving physical well-being <p>For reasons such as rurality, poverty etc. access to the internet may be limited for some.</p>	Access to the internet is available through libraries and contact centres. The document can be made available on request, including audio CD, in large print, language and various other formats.

Recommendations & Mitigation		
Please summaries all recommendations and mitigations for approval by the decision makers who will approve your proposal		
Characteristic	Mitigation/Recommendation	Approved Yes/No
	Key stakeholders in the LBAP partnership will be engaged to develop and prioritise actions under the Action Plan through a series of workshops and further consultation. Key stakeholders and Area Partnerships will be consulted on the Action Plan as Supplementary Guidance. The Action Plan will be subject to full public consultation as part of this process. Responses will be collated and any substantive changes will be submitted for approval in due course. Actions will be monitored for equalities impacts as they are	Yes

	developed and implemented.	
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Signed Off (Sign off <u>must</u> be completed by Service Manager or Director)			
Name:	Ian Aikman	Directorate:	Regulatory Services
Post:	Chief Planning Officer	Date:	03/08/18

EIA Completed By			
Name	Andy Tharme	Service Area.	Regulatory Services
Post	Ecology Officer	Date	23/07/18