

FULL EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM B
<p>Function being assessed:</p> <p>The function being assessed is the Riverside Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that sets out the strategic direction, principles and guidance for public realm and open space in the Riverside area, for all users and landowners, including the Council.</p>
<p>Is this a new function or a review of an existing function?</p> <p>The SPD builds on existing policy which is currently contained in the Local Plan Core Strategy (2012) and the Kingston Town Centre Area Action Plan K+20 (2008). When adopted as an SPD, the document will adhere to policies contained in the Core Strategy which have been the subject to equality impact assessment.</p>
<p>What are the aims/purpose of the function?</p> <p>The purpose of the Riverside SPD is to help bring about improvements to the usability and attractiveness of the riverside area. The SPD will be used to help shape developments proposed in the area, to support the Council in attracting funding from public and private sources, and the SPD is intended to form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.</p>
<p>Is the function designed to meet specific needs such as the needs of minority ethnic groups, older people, disabled people etc?</p> <p>The focus of the Riverside SPD is all those who make use of the riverside. In addition consideration has been given to those who do not make use of the riverside area due to physical or perceived barriers to access. These barriers may touch on different protected characteristics, dependent on individual circumstances.</p> <p>With the focus on public realm and open space, people with mobility issues and particular access requirements have been a particular focus in developing the SPD.</p>
<p>What information has been gathered on this function? (Indicate the type of information gathered e.g. statistics, consultation, other monitoring information)? Attach a summary or refer to where the evidence can be found.</p> <p>The Riverside Public Realm SPD has been informed by, early stage engagement and formal consultation. Feedback from both stages have been taken. This part of the process was led by the council and sought to understand</p>

the issues and aspirations of the Riverside area with a wide range of stakeholders. These included a selection of local businesses, landowners, resident associations, community and boat user groups with particular interest in the operation of the river, or were located in or close to the SPD area.

The formal consultation period for the SPD ran for eight weeks. The consultation was undertaken using different tools and methods to ensure maximum opportunity for people to make use of a media which they feel comfortable with, this was supported accessible published material including specialist version of the consultation material. Young people were particularly targeted as part of the consultation, using social media and liaison with Kingston University, as young people are typically underrepresented in planning consultations.

This is a breakdown of who responded to the online consultation (Stage 2):

- **Gender:**
 - 60% male;
 - 32% female;
 - 8% prefer not to say.
- **Age:**
 - 4% 16-24;
 - 14% 25-34;
 - 9% 35-44;
 - 16% 45-54;
 - 22% 55-64;
 - 31% 65-74;
 - 4% 75+.
- **Long-term physical or mental health condition or disability:**
 - 4% yes;
 - 89% no;
 - 7% prefer not to say.
- **Nature of disability, mental health or other health issue:**
 - 33% physical mobility;
 - 33% sensory;
 - 33% health diagnosis.
- **Ethnic group:**
 - 69% white;
 - 3% mixed Asian or Asian;
 - 12% British;
 - 1% Black or Black British;
 - 3% other ethnic group;
 - 13% prefer not to say.

Does your analysis of the information show different outcomes for different groups (higher or lower uptake/failure to access/receive a poorer or inferior service)? If yes, indicate which groups and which aspects of the policy or function contribute to inequality?

Analysis of feedback has identified that different user groups have different experiences in using the riverside, and raised different challenges to be considering in taking forward proposals.

These specific groups include -

- Disability: including mobility and visual impairment
- Age: including older people and young people and those caring for younger people
- Gender: including and security perception of safety

Throughout the plan there are specific activities aimed at ensuring that the requirements of all users are taken on board, both in the SPD itself, and as requiring consideration as projects come forward. So as to address these inequalities (or potential inequalities) for each group so that their access, leisure, health and other outcomes are optimised.

Particular areas identified as issues with the current environment related to:

- accessibility to and along the riverside for all,
- the needs of the younger or older people and to those with special requirements for access to public conveniences.

The Council will do what it can to address these issues. While ability to address these issues are not fully within the scope of the SPD, these needs will be accommodated where possible (and are identified below as actions needing to be taken).

Are these differences justified (e.g. are there legislative or other constraints)? If they are, explain in what way.

These actual and perceived issues in the current environment are often as a result of historic decisions or failure to consider the holistic needs of end users in the design of space.

New environment must perform better and take into account the diverse needs of users. While this principle is embedded in the Riverside SPD, the ability to address these issues are not all within the scope of the SPD, but will be accommodated where possible.

What action needs to be taken as a result of this Equality Impact Assessment to address any detrimental impacts or meet previously unidentified need? Include here any reasonable adjustments for access by disabled people. Include dates by which action will be taken. Attach an action plan if necessary.

Any projects or actions which come forward are likely to be subject to their own

EQIA (or similar) assessment, especially as they relate to public highway works. The aims of this EQIA, and the particular needs of the project, will be considered in greater detail at that time.

Actions will include ensuring that when project briefs and EQIAs are undertaken these are the issue following issues will be addressed;

- inclusive design (including accessibility, surface materials and level changes),
- lighting and signage (to support wayfinding, safety)
- public conveniences,
- seating and street furniture,
- safety, and
- sharing of space.

When will you evaluate the impact of action taken? Give review dates.

The SPD will be used as an evidence base for the new Local Plan. Any proposals taken forward into the Local Plan will be subject to the equalities impact assessment for the Local Plan.

Assessment completed by:

NAME: Robert Offord

SERVICE: Urban Design and Development

DATE: 30 July 2018.

Please send your completed assessment to your service head. A copy should then be sent to the Equality Adviser.