

Equality Impact Assessment Report	Please enter responses below in the right hand columns
Date to EIA panel, department, DLT or DMT	
Sign-off path for EIA (please add/delete as applicable)	Cabinet 12 January 2015
Title of Project, business area, policy/strategy	Parks Capital Investment Plan 2014/15 - 2018/19, Culture and Communities, Commissioning
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SLB Sponsor	Helen Charlesworth-May, Strategic Director, Commissioning

London Borough of Lambeth Full Equality Impact Assessment Report

Please enter responses below in the right hand columns.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Business activity aims and intentions

In brief explain the aims of your proposal/project/service, why is it needed? Who is it aimed at? What is the intended outcome? What are the links to the cooperative council vision, corporate outcomes and priorities?

According to the Residents Survey (2014), more than half of Lambeth households (59%) use parks and open spaces provided by the Council and over 70% of residents are positive about these parks and open spaces, higher than inner Londoners (66%). Parks and open spaces are also ranked fourth on the list of the most important things that make a local area a good place to live.

We also know that public sector funding for discretionary services such as parks is set to fall by 40% to 60% across the UK over the next decade. At the same time, our public parks and open spaces are under increasing pressure for a continued, if not improved, standard of maintenance and management. The emerging Cooperative Parks Programme has already started to respond to this challenge by encouraging greater levels of community-led management. The mandate for this transformation was set by Cabinet in December 2013 and has been reinforced with findings from the Residents Survey which found that residents were more likely to get involved in environment or conservation issues than anything else.

However, in this financial climate, we know a new cooperative model of service delivery is not enough. The Parks Capital Investment Plan is the first of its kind; the first borough-wide strategic investment plan that pinpoints where we should invest our capital to achieve the best outcomes for residents. Specifically, where we should direct available funding in order to open up new funding streams and sustain everyday operations in our parks and open spaces. Public consultation on this plan ended on 31 October 2014 and seeded over 300 responses, which informed the revised plan.

£20million is needed to deliver this plan. We are proposing to invest £11million; £2million of which has already been secured and £9million of council funding to be committed over five years. The remaining £9million is to be found in partnership with local communities, which given the scale of the challenge, we will support by providing targeted capacity to work with communities.

To support this local involvement we have described a new way of working in the capital investment plan that embeds opportunities for resident engagement at each stage of the project design and delivery process. We have also generated a set of key principles that we expect both council and community representatives to sign up to, to ensure we work together effectively and to best effect. These are:

- Value for Money – ensuring that funds are spent efficiently and effectively
- Integrity – building trust and a mutual level of respect between the council and community partners
- Collaboration with Users – achieving wide representation and input from different sections of the community into the development of potential schemes
- Facilitates Local Growth Opportunities - encourages and seeds opportunities for local employment in the delivery of this plan

The primary outcomes that will be delivered through this programme are:

- Communities feel safer and stronger
- People are healthier for longer

2.0 Analysing your equalities evidence

2.1 Evidence

*Any proposed business activity, new policy or strategy, service change, or procurement must be informed by carrying out an assessment of the likely impact that it may have. In this section please include both data and analysis which shows that you understand how this decision is likely to affect residents that fall under the protected characteristics enshrined in law and the local characteristics which we consider to be important in Lambeth (language, health and socio-economic factors). **Please check the council's equality and monitoring policy and your division's self assessment. Each division in 2011/12 reviewed its equality data and completed a self assessment about what equality data is relevant and available?***

IF YOUR PROPOSAL ALSO IMPACTS ON LAMBETH COUNCIL STAFF YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A STAFFING EIA.

Protected characteristics and local equality characteristics	Impact analysis For each characteristic please indicate the type of impact (i.e. positive, negative, positive and negative, none, or unknown), and: <i>Please explain how you justify your claims around impacts.</i> <i>Please include any data and evidence that you have collected including from surveys, performance data or complaints to support your proposed changes.</i> <i>Please indicate sources of data and the date it relates to/was produced (e.g. 'Residents Survey, wave 10, April 12' or 'Lambeth Business Survey 2012' etc)</i>
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<p>Race</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>Research suggests that some sectors of the community access the natural environment far less frequently than others, of which black and minority ethnic groups is one such group (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, 2008). In addition, CABE research found that in urban areas, BME people tend to have access to less local green space and that the space they do have access to is of a poorer quality. As roughly 60% of Lambeth’s population represent a BME community (according to the 2011 census) and given the known benefits that visiting and using parks and open spaces can bring, it seems imperative to ensure some attention is given to improving the quality of the green spaces in areas of high BME communities as a means of influencing the access rates of this group.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme found that similar to the average, children’s playgrounds were the most popular choice of improvement by BME communities. Built in to the capital plan is a programme of asset renewals where the condition of playgrounds will be assessed mid way through the delivery of the plan to determine whether dedicated improvements are needed as a matter of immediate attention. It is expected that improvements to parks will encourage greater levels of access and use by all equalities groups.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and support in reaching all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access these groups to ensure any new development meets the needs of all equalities groups. This would ensure our investment was targeted in the most effective manner.</p> <p>We also expect our communities to help us in the procurement of services, for example helping us identify potential local suppliers; stimulating growth in the borough. This is another avenue that could be utilised in terms of addressing issues of diversity in providers. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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<p>Gender</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>Equalities legislation places several duties on public bodies, including the need to be proactive in positive promoting equality and addressing discrimination so that gender does not interfere with people’s ability to access services, such as parks. There does not seem to be any discernible difference between usage of parks by men or women - however this is difficult to comprehensively track given that usage of parks and open spaces is not measured (significant variation - for example, seasonally/annually).</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme found that women were more likely to identify a need for children’s playgrounds than men, with findings of 30% and 16% respectively in the face to face interviews and 31% and 16% in the short questionnaire. Built in to the capital plan is a programme of asset renewals where the condition of playgrounds will be assessed mid way through the delivery of the plan to determine whether dedicated improvements are needed as a matter of immediate attention. It is expected that improvements to parks will encourage greater levels of access and use by all equalities groups.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of all equalities groups. This would ensure our investment was targeted in the most effective manner.</p> <p>Captured within this project delivery process, is also an expectation that our communities help us with the contract management of services. For example helping us ensure local views on progress and performance are reflected throughout project delivery. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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Gender re-assignment	<p>Positive / Unknown</p> <p>The usage and potential access barriers of parks and open spaces by this equalities group do not seem to have been actively researched. There is little known local information on numbers of transgender people in the borough, although based on national estimates of 20 transgender people per 100,000 people, we anticipate there are roughly 50-60 people are transgender in Lambeth (0.1%). However, bearing in mind the wide ranging benefits of public open space in providing opportunities for social interaction, temporary escape or respite from inner city living, and supporting personal change, it may warrant further exploration.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Although the consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme attempted to capture the views of all equalities groups, there were no specific comments received from this group on preferred choice of improvements.</p> <p>However, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of all equalities groups. As part of these discussions we will ensure there are no potential access barriers in different sections of the community in putting forward their views.</p> <p>The importance of maintaining public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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<p>Disability</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>People with disabilities are one of the underrepresented groups that tend to have lower usage or access rates of park and open spaces. The need for disabled people to feel informed and confident enough to access outdoor recreation sites has been identified as a possible solution and educating staff working in parks and open spaces to cater for their needs and aspirations. As parks are also often used in community-based programmes and are recognised to be particularly effective for those with developmental or learning disabilities, it seems pertinent to ensure they are used to best effect through this programme.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Dedicated focus work was carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme to understand the views of people of disabilities in terms of community-led management. From this, there was a general understanding that the parks community groups needed to include a more diverse membership to ensure different opinions are considered. This would then help ensure future physical improvements met the needs of equalities groups. It is expected that improvements to parks will encourage greater levels of access and use by all equalities groups.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users. This may involve engaging people with disabilities as volunteers or champions for individual improvement projects, which may lead to greater levels of engagement in parks by this equalities group.</p> <p>The importance of maintaining public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. We also expect our communities to help us in the procurement of services (for example helping us identify potential local suppliers) and in contract management (ensuring local views are represented). These are avenues that can be utilised in terms of addressing issues of diversity in providers and in ensuring that ongoing performance continually reflects local needs. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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<p>Age</p>	<p>Positive <u>Young People</u> Roughly 60% of young people in Lambeth use our parks and open spaces and over two thirds have visited a local playground in the past month. Positively, green space has been linked with reduced obesity in children and young people which is on the rise - particularly amongst children and young people in England. However two thirds of 9-11 year olds in the UK are dissatisfied with the quality of local outdoor play activities available. For 15-16 year olds this rose to 81%. A range of studies have also highlighted specific barriers to accessing green space, such as experiences of racism and anxiety in teenagers who report parks and playgrounds as the least safe urban environment and issues of exclusions arising from the domination by groups of people.</p> <p>The cooperative parks consultation was used to ensure the views of our younger population were captured. Aside from views on local management, the need for further sports facility provision was the most popular option (30%) and playgrounds the least. In the capital investment plan, priority has been given to the need for sports facilities across the borough; both because of the increasing numbers of people playing sports in parks and also because of the income generation potential sports offers. Moving forward, we will need to consider pricing schedules to ensure accessibility of the improved sports facilities once on offer.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and support in reaching all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users, which should involve engaging children and youth in the project scoping and design process. This is important as young people will have views on the form of sports facility to construct and the size/layout, for example.</p> <p>Captured within this project delivery process, is also an expectation that our communities help us with the procurement of services, for example helping us identify and select potential local suppliers. In line with the social value act, many organisations now offer training and apprenticeships schemes that focus on employing local youth, which is an area that we could look for in potential suppliers. In support is BTCVs finding that volunteering is an overwhelmingly positive experience for young people. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will</p>
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help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.

<p>Age</p>	<p><u>Older People</u> 50% of older people are regular visitors to parks and green spaces (English Heritage, Countryside Agency, and Sport England, 2003). Parks are age proof and their natural settings as community open spaces have been found to enhance social ties and provide opportunities for community cohesion. They are also free and as such, are positive destinations for groups of friends or family outings. However, the main mechanism known to influence older people’s usage of open space is perceptions of personal safety. Specifically, enclosed green spaces in urban areas are associated with reduced safety.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Dedicated focus groups were held with older people during the cooperative parks consultation to understand their needs in relation to our parks and open spaces and the general theme that emerged related to concerns about personal safety and security - particularly in relation to dogs, street drinkers, and events. Capacity issues for older people getting involved in parks were also raised. There is a role for designing capital improvements in parks that address issues of community safety, such as providing better lighting and creating clearer sight lines across the park, which are broadly captured in this capital plan.</p> <p>The development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community, including ascertaining the views of older people in the project scoping and design process. With safety and security high on agenda, we can ensure that new developments design potential hidden areas of the park out or alternatively, convert them into a more positive use, such as a community garden. In addition, it is assumed that improving our parks and building higher quality facilities will lead to increased usage, which has a knock on effect in terms of natural surveillance and improved community safety.</p> <p>Captured within this project delivery process, is also an expectation that our communities help us with the procurement of services (for example helping us identify potential local suppliers) and in contract management (ensuring local views are represented). These are avenues that can be utilised in terms of considering and addressing potential perception of safety issues and in ensuring that ongoing performance continually reflects local needs. Our cooperative parks pioneers are community-led enterprises or social enterprises that aim to either jointly or independently manage local parks or open spaces. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Positive / Unknown</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that everyone should have access to good quality green spaces irrespective of sexual orientation (amongst other protected characteristics). However, the usage and potential access barriers of parks and open spaces by this equalities group do not seem to have been actively researched. Considering the wide ranging benefits of public open space in the context of presenting cost-effective opportunities for people to transform their local neighbourhoods and improve their quality of life, and the pattern of equalities groups being worst served by standard services, it may warrant further exploration.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Although the consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme attempted to capture the views of all equalities groups, there were no specific comments received from this group on preferred choice of improvements.</p> <p>However, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of all equalities groups. As part of these discussions we will ensure there are no potential access barriers in different sections of the community in putting forward their views or being part of any decision-making discussions.</p> <p>The importance of maintaining and building public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. This is in response to evidence that suggests that feelings of alienation (or a lack of public transport) have inhibited access to parks and open spaces. Our cooperative parks pioneers will have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway which will foster the need to work collaboratively to provide more welcoming opportunities for everyone to access and visit parks. This will also help pioneers consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
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Religion and belief

Positive / Unknown

Poor quality spaces, scarred by the evidence of vandalism and neglect, dominated by single groups and anti-social behaviour can be a blight on communities and have a considerable negative impact on health and wellbeing. However, the usage and potential access barriers of parks and open spaces by different religious communities do not seem to have been actively researched. Considering the wide ranging benefits of public open space in terms of tackling inequalities, and the pattern of equalities groups being worst served by standard services, it may warrant further exploration.

This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Although the consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme was open and attempted to capture the views of all equalities groups, there were no specific comments received from this group on preferred choice of improvements.

However, the development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of all equalities groups. As part of these discussions we will ensure there are no potential access barriers in different sections of the community in putting forward their views or being part of any decision-making discussions. There also schemes proposed in the plan which relate to providing community facilities, which may provide an opportunity for different groups to come together.

The importance of maintaining and building public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. Evidence suggests that barriers vary across religious groups so the importance of bringing different groups into the discussion early on is emphasised. Our cooperative parks pioneers will have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway which will foster the need to work collaboratively to provide more welcoming opportunities for everyone to access and visit parks. This will also help pioneers consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.

Pregnancy and maternity

Positive / Unknown

It is recognised that a wide cross-section of people are using and valuing their local parks and green spaces more. However, the usage and potential access barriers of parks and open spaces by this group do not seem to have been actively researched. Considering the wide ranging benefits of public open space, such as reducing the significant gap in life expectancy between rich and poor, it may warrant further exploration.

This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Although the consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme was open and attempted to capture the views of all equalities groups, there were no dedicated questions related to pregnancy or maternity. Nevertheless comments were received that related to the needs of pregnant women or had maternity/paternity implications for investment; namely the need for one o'clock club provision/improvements and more fit for purpose playgrounds.

The development of this capital plan has also led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of this group. As part of these discussions we will need to ensure maximum engagement to ensure the views of this group are represented, particularly in the project scoping and design phase. For example, input from parents will only add value to playground designs as issues of sight lines and safety traps will be identified early on.

The importance of maintaining and building public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. Within the council, we are starting to build links with the youth and play services to ensure a seamless offer between parks and children's play; historically distinct service areas. Our cooperative parks pioneers will have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway which will help them consider the impact of any plans on all equality groups and encourage a wider and more diverse membership.

<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>Positive / Unknown</p> <p>Parks are known to make an inherently unique contribution to social, environmental, and economic fabric of local areas. However, the usage and potential access barriers of parks and open spaces by this group do not seem to have been actively researched. Considering the wide ranging benefits of public open space, such as developing a sense of ownership and community engagement in neighbourhoods, further exploration may be warranted.</p> <p>This plan aims to deliver schemes that will improve the quality of parks and their facilities, ranging from improving dilapidated and unused buildings to modernising playgrounds. Although the consultation carried out as part of the cooperative parks programme was open and attempted to capture the views of all equalities groups, there were no dedicated questions related to marriage or civil partnerships, meaning we don't have clear information as to what are the preferred choice of park improvements by this group.</p> <p>However, the development of this capital plan has also led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of this group. As part of these discussions we will need to ensure maximum engagement to ensure the views of all groups are represented, particularly in the project scoping and design phase. By supporting input from all groups, we hope to be more imaginative in our use of green space and encourage individual and community engagement.</p> <p>Captured within this project delivery process, is also an expectation that our communities help us with the procurement of services (for example helping us identify potential local suppliers) and in contract management (ensuring local views are represented). These are avenues that can be utilised in terms of delivering schemes that are more accountable to local people and continually reflect and meet local needs. Our cooperative parks pioneers will have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway which will help them consider the impact of any plans on all equality groups.</p>
<p>Socio-economic factors</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>Parks are free areas to visit and relax, and act as outdoor and well frequented havens for those that have no gardens. They also have huge public health benefits with evidence suggesting that green space has</p>

greater health benefits within the poorest communities. They have even been proven to reduce the impact of deprivation. However, research has found that people that live in deprived inner city areas have access to five times fewer public parks and good quality general green space that people in more affluent areas (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment). This raises issues around ensuring that the green space Lambeth has available is high quality and well-managed - particularly as we look towards devolved local management models across our portfolio of parks and open spaces.

It is clear that during times of economic hardship the range of freely available activities and opportunities provided in parks becomes particularly important, especially for less well off individuals and families. People that are long-term unemployed or in a low socio-economic position are a priority group for the cooperative parks programme and the schemes delivered as part of the parks capital investment plan; particularly considering the more jobs and increased growth agenda. They may also be more dependent or likely to use our parks and open spaces given they are free to access. This all has implications for the type of improvement that is provided as there will need to be a focus on ensuring cost is not a barrier to using our parks.

The development of this capital plan has also led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us in reaching all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of this group. As part of these discussions we will need to ensure maximum engagement to ensure the views of all groups are represented, particularly in the project scoping and design phase. By supporting input from all groups, we hope to be more imaginative in our use of green space and encourage individual and community engagement.

Captured within this project delivery process, is also an expectation that our communities help us with the procurement of services (for example helping us identify potential local suppliers) and in contract management (ensuring local views are represented). In line with the social value act, we can frame our commissioned services around social value outcomes and in particular, increased training and employment opportunities for low socio-economic or unemployed local people, subsequently positively impacting their likelihood of moving into longer term employment. These are all avenues that can be utilised in terms of delivering schemes that are more accountable to local people and also improve outcomes for residents. Our cooperative parks pioneers will have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway which will help them consider the impact of any plans

	<p>on all equality groups (such as usage charges).</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>Positive / Unknown</p> <p>Well managed parks and green spaces can encourage visitors and enhance social inclusion and cohesion which will become of increasing importance as we move forward in developing and implementing cooperative or community-led management models with our pioneers. Efforts will also need to continue to ensure proposed developments take into consideration the needs of people that are unable to speak/read English, or need support.</p> <p>The development of this capital plan has led to a change in the way we plan and deliver capital schemes in parks. The role we expect our local communities to play is one of engagement and supporting us reach all sections of the community. Specifically, we have built into the project delivery process an expectation that local communities act as the conduit to different park users; to help us proactively access all groups to ensure that any new development meets the needs of this group. As part of these discussions we will need to ensure maximum engagement to ensure the views of all groups are represented, particularly in the project scoping and design phase. By supporting input from all groups, we hope to ensure future improvements are properly grounded in local opinion. There also schemes proposed in the plan which relate to providing community facilities, which may provide an opportunity for different groups to come together.</p> <p>The importance of maintaining and building public access to all facilities (new or existing) in our parks and open spaces will also be emphasised in the early project scoping and design work. Anecdotal evidence suggests that barriers related to alienation may exist so the importance of bringing different groups into the discussion early on and building a welcoming atmosphere is emphasised. Our cooperative parks pioneers, as community-led enterprises or social enterprises are expected to represent different cross-sections of the community and will play an important role in galvanising more local people to get involved in park management and maintenance. This will have a number of benefits including helping to address social exclusion and build community cohesion and integration. Our pioneers will also have been supported in equalities training through the technical capacity programme of support currently underway. This programme will help build the necessary skills and knowledge needed in order to successfully manage parks, ranging from formalising governance arrangements to preparing equalities policies, all of which will</p>

	<p>help them consider the impact of any plans on equality groups.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Positive There has been increasing recognition of the role the environment can play in enhancing health. Less active lifestyles have led to an increase in preventable diseases which are placing increasing pressures on the National Health Service and cost the NHS £8.2 billion annually (Department of Health, 2004). Simply being outside in a green space can promote mental wellbeing, relieve stress, overcome isolation, improve social cohesion, and alleviate physical problems so that fewer working days are lost to ill health (CABE, 2009).</p> <p>The development of this parks capital investment plan falls under the cooperative parks programme as one of the cooperative commissioning programmes under the ‘Healthier for Longer’ workstream. It aims to drive innovation and use its capital funding to deliver schemes that will help transform the parks service. This will include a focus on tackling public health needs within and across communities. For example, by investing capital in projects that will support opportunities to become more active and exercise more through the development of community healthy food growing areas in disused spaces or by refurbishing a building that will encourage exercise class provision.</p>

2.2 Gaps in evidence base

What gaps in information have you identified from your analysis? In your response please identify areas where more information is required and how you intend to fill in the gaps. If you are unable to fill in the gaps please state this clearly with justification.

There is little available local information on usage of parks or park facilities, let alone breakdowns by equality groups. This makes it difficult to determine local trends in what different equalities groups want or need from our parks. While a lot is known nationally about barriers to accessing parks, there is a possibility that the rates and trends may differ somewhat on a local level. It is assumed that by supporting local management models under the cooperative parks programme, we may be in a stronger position to start capturing more detailed information on a local or neighbourhood level.

The community impact of local initiatives and activities provided in parks does not for the most part, tend to be gathered. For example, there are locally run activities such as ‘cook and eat’ sessions for retired people or the music, arts, and drama programme in the park, for which the benefits to the community have not been fully realised. This makes it more difficult to determine the value of individual community schemes over others. Again, however, it is held that as we go through the new project delivery process and use local communities as the conduit to reach other less represented sections of the community, we will be in a better position to understand how to best meet local needs.

Pending cabinet approval, the Council will begin the next stage of developing and implementing this capital plan. This will include the recruitment of two project delivery support officers whose role will be to work with local communities on raising funding and drafting funding applications. Such a financial challenge has never been posed to our communities before and as such, we will need to ensure we regularly review progress and feed back to the Lambeth Parks Forum. Monitoring will also take place with the two project officers to ensure the approach is driven by the community and that engagement with equalities groups is taking place under the project scoping and design phase.

3.0 Consultation, Involvement and Coproduction

3.1 Coproduction, involvement and consultation

Who are your key stakeholders and how have you consulted, coproduced or involved them? What difference did this make?

The results from the cooperative parks programme consultation informed the development of this capital investment plan given its inclusion of specific questions related to the type of improvements people would like to see in their local park or open space. During this extensive borough-wide consultation, the Council used a variety of communication and consultation tools to reach different communities and users, including open public meetings, hard copy and online promotion (including social media), focus groups, face to face interviews, and attendance at community events. A wide range of views and feedback came through the consultation from a number of different groups, communities, and areas of the borough with the total number of responses over 1,400.

As mentioned, this feedback was the basis of the capital investment plan, which once prepared was released for public consultation more recently. The plan was circulated to the Lambeth Parks Forum for initial comment, after which it was circulated more widely to community forums and all ward councillors. It was also made available online and was promoted via social media, including Facebook and twitter. Over 300 responses were received which fed into the next iteration of the plan.

Key stakeholders include:

- Local residents
- Park users
- Community Forums, including Lambeth Parks Forum, Sustainability Forum, and Lambeth Community Forum Network
- Friends of parks groups
- Park Management Advisory Committees
- Cabinet Member and ward councillors
- Third sector organisations/charities

The development of this plan relied heavily on the input of the stakeholders listed above with the capital plan on the agenda at recent Parks Forum meetings. A host of friends groups submitted formal responses to the consultation which have influenced its content. The wide electronic distribution of online and hard copy consultation materials also reached a range of groups interested in parks plans. Built into the plan is also a process that allows pioneering groups to challenge priorities that have been set, indicating the flexibility for change in the plan.

3.2 Gaps in coproduction, consultation and involvement

What gaps in consultation and involvement and coproduction have you identified (set out any gaps as they relate to specific equality groups)? Please describe where more consultation, involvement and/or coproduction is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification.

It is held that for the most part, the cooperative parks programme consultation had a good reach into the community, bearing in mind the number of responses received to the consultation (over 1,400). However, improvements and specific engagement work could have been carried out on the plan itself with individual friends of parks and third sector groups. There were individual meetings attended with different friends of parks groups, however this was on an invitation basis owing to the numbers of groups (over 35). With dedicated individual engagement we may have received a greater number of responses to the project priorities listed (over 300).

To ensure possible views can still be captured, we have built in to the plan a process that allows pioneering groups to challenge the priorities that have been set. This demonstrates flexibility in our approach as a means of ensuring what we are spending our money on and prioritising what the community wants/needs.

In addition, the project delivery cycle outlined in the plan describes a new way of working that seeks to embed local involvement at each stage of the cycle. This means that the role of communities will change to be less about advocacy, more about design, management, and delivery of individual projects. For example, our communities will be able to:

- agree the projects to be delivered
- help us secure funding
- feed into the detailed design, scope, and layout of scheme
- act as the conduit for broader public consultation
- help us procure suppliers (including identifying local providers)
- actively participate in contract management
- ensure scheme is successfully delivered, including feeding back areas for future improvement

We also intend to ensure that all equalities groups are considered through this project delivery process, and that impact of future developments on equalities are constantly assessed.

4.0 Conclusions, justification and action

4.1 Conclusions and justification

What are the main conclusions of this EIA? What, if any, disproportionate negative or positive equality impacts did you identify at 2.1? On what grounds do you justify them and how will they be mitigated?

It goes without saying that when people have access to high quality parks they exercise more, have improved psychological health, and feel more connected to their local neighbourhood. This Parks Capital Investment Plan sets out intentions for improving all our parks and open spaces. This is no small feat and to demonstrate our commitment we are proposing to commit £11million over five years to match fund external contributions to help us deliver the plans priorities. Yet this financial contribution only forms part of the picture. We will need to work with our communities to source the remaining funds.

Recently this plan was tested with local communities and the key headline findings that emerged concerned the importance of redressing the imbalance in capital investment over the years and the need for a more in-depth period of public consultation. There were also concerns raised about the need to support communities with the high external funding expectation. There were also a significant number of submissions in support of funding being directed towards certain parks.

To that end we developed a framework within the plan that addressed these issues and will support local efforts to raise the necessary funding and deliver projects that best meet local needs. Namely, we will drive our initial investment towards:

- Delivery of the high priority projects in each neighbourhood
- Match funding the remainder of projects
- Creating project delivery support to work with communities on securing external funding.

We also built in an ability for pioneering groups to challenge the priorities set if, over time a new scheme came to light as requiring immediate investment.

Pending cabinet approval, the next stage of this plan will be to develop neighbourhood compacts that will outline timeline for delivery and profiled spend over the next five years. The delivery of the compacts will include local input on scope and design as described in the project delivery cycle. As we move through implementation of the plan we will need to continually review progress to ensure we are on track and ensure developments built are open and meet the needs of all equalities groups.

4.2 Equality Action plan

Please list the equality issue/s identified through the evidence and the mitigating action to be taken. Please also detail the date when the action will be taken and the name and job title of the responsible officer.

Equality Issue	Mitigating actions
Parks groups or communities groups report lack of awareness of plan or consultation on plan	At the next Lambeth Parks Forum, an update will be provided to parks groups on the plan, including a outline of how pioneering groups will be able to challenge the priorities set in the plan. 01/02/15. Natalie Thomsen. Programme Manager
Needs or views of equalities groups may not be represented in new developments	Part of the project delivery officer's remit will be to communicate the need for local communities to try and reach out to all sections of the community as part of the project scope and design stage. In addition, discussions will be held with Tree Shepherd (technical capacity programme provider) to ensure the equalities module of the course includes a local consultation element. The council will maintain an overview as part of the monitoring process. 01/02/15, Natalie Thomsen, Programme Manager
Equalities may slip down the agenda as projects start to be delivered	Progress review of the plan and the projects underway as part of the midway review with the project delivery officers and community representatives, with overview by Council equalities leads 31/05/16 Natalie Thomsen, Programme Manager
5.0 Publishing your results	

The results of your EIA must be published. Once the business activity has been implemented the EIA must be periodically reviewed to ensure your decision/change had the anticipated impact and the actions set out at 4.2 are still appropriate.

EIA publishing date	05 January 2015
EIA review date	31 May 2016
Assessment sign off (name/job title):	Jennifer Duncan, Equalities and Cohesion Officer

All completed and signed-off EIAs must be submitted to equalities@lambeth.gov.uk for publication on Lambeth's website. Where possible, please anonymise your EIAs prior to submission (i.e. please remove any references to an officers' name, email and phone number).