

Equality Impact – Initial Assessment

Date:	25 November 2021
Project/policy/service:	New Play Area, Woodford Park/Memorial Ground
Completed by:	Kevin Murray, Deputy Town Clerk

1. Project/policy/service information:

This section should identify the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery and the key stakeholders, main beneficiaries and associated aims.

What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change and what are the expected outcomes:
The aim of the project is to provide an inclusive play area in Woodford Park/Memorial Ground, to replace the existing old play area, and provide an exciting, stimulating and inclusive play experience for children of all ages and abilities.
Outline how the project, policy change or service change will be delivered and what governance arrangements are in place or required:
The project is being funded from £200,000 S106 developers' contributions - allocated by Wokingham Borough Council specifically for the project. The Town Council has sought formal tenders from interested suppliers and assessed these in accordance with a scoring criteria. The tender requirements include the provision of appropriate company equality policies in addition to environmental, health & safety, insurance policies, financial information etc. The selected contractor and the project design will be required to meet all the requirements of the tender and the project design.
The Council has undertaken two public consultations (online & via display materials in the Oakwood Centre/Woodford Park Leisure Centre):
<u>Consultation 1 (270 responses)</u> To assess frequency of use, age range, disabilities, transport, initial preferences of people using the existing play area.
<u>Consultation 2 (733 responses)</u> To ask for preferences on specific scheme designs, equipment and provision of fencing/enclosure.

The Council has set up a Task & Finish Working Party to consider shortlisted designs in the context of the design brief and consultation responses. The group will make recommendations to the Council on the appointment of the contractor, the scheme design and the location/footprint of the play area.

The Council will formally appoint a contractor and approve the project design. The Council will also approve the location and footprint of the play area – acting as the Trustee of the Memorial Ground. The Council will engage a project manager/clerk of works to oversee the installation and draw up and snagging upon completion of the installation.

Outline the main beneficiaries of the project, policy change or service change:

Local children and their parents/families and carers.

The provision of a high quality, accessible and inclusive play area will benefit children of all ages and abilities over the lifespan of the equipment (20+ years). It is anticipated that due to the scale, quality and inclusive nature of the play area it will be used regularly by residents from outside Woodley as well as those living more locally. There are specific design elements and equipment to enable children of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs to enjoy and benefit from the space in an inclusive and integrated way. The project will enhance the park as a community asset for all residents.

2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as identified by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership

Consideration should be given to the potential impacts on each of these groups.

3. Initial Impact Review

The table below should indicate whether the project, policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristic groups. Each group should be assessed and assigned a Positive, No, Low or High impact score.

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group
Race	No	
Gender	No	
Disabilities	Positive	The project provides significantly more opportunities for inclusive play than the current facilities at the site and at other sites. Potential conflicts of use along the pathway, which may have had the potential to affect some people with disabilities, have been addressed by adding railings and gates to enclose the toddler/younger childrens area and widening the path.
Age	Positive	The project provides high quality play opportunities for a wider age range than the current facilities at the site.
Sexual orientation	No	
Religion/belief	No	
Gender re-assignment	No	
Pregnancy & maternity	No	
Marriage & civil partnership	No	

Based on the initial impact assessment, a more detailed assessment should be carried out where any groups have been identified as having a low or high negative impact.

Signed:  Print: Kevin Murray Date: 25/11/21