

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EQUALITY ANALYSIS / IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)**

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Directorate: Growth, Environment & Transport

Name of policy, procedure, project or service

Public Rights of Way – Asset Management Plan

What is being assessed?

Strategy/ Policy

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer

Graham Rusling, KCC PRoW & Access Service

Date of Initial Screening

27 August 2019

Date of Full EqIA :

20 June to 12 September 2018

Update each revised version below and in the saved document name.

Version	Author	Date	Comment
1.0	Denise Roffey	31 October 2018	EQIA produced for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) following extensive consultation.
2.0	Graham Rusling	27 August 2019	Screening EQIA completed reflecting work undertaken in respect of the EQIA for the ROWIP which is entirely relevant to the Asset Management Plan.

Updated 30/09/2019

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Screening Grid

Characteristic	Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect this group less favourably than others in Kent? YES/NO If yes how?	Assessment of potential impact HIGH/MEDIUM LOW/NONE UNKNOWN		Provide details: a) Is internal action required? If yes what? b) Is further assessment required? If yes, why?	Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group? YES/NO - Explain how good practice can promote equal opportunities
		Positive	Negative	Internal action must be included in Action Plan	If yes you must provide detail
Age	NO	Medium	None	No	<p>Yes:</p> <p>Policy promotes provision of accessible routes to encourage Active Travel, and facilitate access to green space, to provide physical and mental health and well-being benefits for all age groups.</p> <p>Policy also sets specific objectives to remove age related barriers to improve accessibility and increase use of the PROW network in the following ways:</p> <p>No authorisation of new stiles on the network, work with landowners to remove stiles and ensure least restrictive access.</p> <p>Improve maintenance of network, further improve vegetation clearance, fingerpost and way marking maintenance.</p>
Disability	NO	High	None	No	<p>Yes . In response to the ROWIP consultation a number of responses highlighted improvements that would be beneficial to those with a disability</p> <p>The most common response was the need to make routes accessible for more types of user. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More disabled access gates. • Removal of stiles.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access points, including dropped kerbs. • Better surfaced routes. • Wheelchair friendly routes.
Gender	NO	Low	None	No	No
Gender identity	NO	Low	None	No	No
Race	NO	Low	None	No	No
Religion or belief	NO	Low	None	No	No
Sexual orientation	NO	Low	None	No	No
Pregnancy and maternity	NO	Medium	None	No	Yes: Policy supports the provision of accessible routes and provision of facilities to encourage outdoor recreation for families and to reduce physical barriers to use. Policy also supports the specific objective in the ROWIP to improve the accessibility of the access network,
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	NO	Low	None	No	No
Carer's responsibilities	NO	Low	None	No	Yes: Policy supports the provision of accessible routes and provision of facilities to encourage outdoor recreation for families and to reduce physical barriers to use. Policy also supports the specific objective in the ROWIP to improve the accessibility of the access network.

Part 1: INITIAL SCREENING

Proportionality - Based on the answers in the above screening grid what weighting would you ascribe to this function – see Risk Matrix

Low	Medium	High
Low relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.	Medium relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a Judgement.	High relevance to equality, /likely to have adverse impact on protected groups

State rating & reasons

LOW. The adoption of the Public Rights of Way Asset Management Plan supports the delivery of the adopted Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-28.

In continuing to follow asset management principles in the management of the PROW Asset accessibility will be improved and those routes delivering the greatest benefit to the public will see the greatest level of investment.

Context

The PROW Asset Management Plan supports the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2018-28. The ROWIP is aligned to the delivery of the County Council's strategic objectives :

- Children and young people in Kent get the best start in life.
- Kent communities feel the benefits of economic growth by being in work, healthy and enjoying a good quality life.
- Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently.

It addresses these policies by identifying those elements of the asset that can be improved while reducing long term expenditure and by identifying those areas where improvement/ investment delivers the greatest benefit in terms of providing sustainable transport choice, increasing opportunities to experience Kent's natural environment and supporting independent living through making routes accessible to all.

ROWIP specific objectives;

AL01- Increase health and well-being benefits -Specifically by:
Targeting improvements to the network in areas of health inequality
Prioritising maintenance where PROW provide access to public green space,
Promote schemes that contribute to an improvement in air quality.

MN01 – MN04 Well – maintained network.

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MN01 Target surface maintenance programmes to encourage the use of PRow for daily travel.
Improve general fingerpost and waymaking maintenance to encourage use and build confidence.
MN03 : Use the asset management plan approach to make informed MN04
Use the Intelligent Investment Tool to inform decisions on project and programme delivery.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include all residents and visitors to Kent, thus supporting the quality of life of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent.

Information and Data

Rights of Way Improvement plan 2018-28 and the suite of supporting documents.
Rights of Way Improvement Plan EQIA 2018

Involvement and Engagement

Extensive research, consultation and engagement were undertaken in preparation for the ROWIP and ROWIP EQIA in 2017 and 2018. This is still entirely relevant and current.

Potential Impact

In supporting the ROWIP the proposed strategy/ policy supports the delivery of a range of positive impacts and has the potential to mitigate some negative impacts that may arise as a result of financial pressures.

Adverse Impact:

None

Positive Impact:

Refer to potential impact section.

JUDGEMENT

There are no negative impacts for any of the diversity groups. Identified positive impacts for the "Disability", "Age", "Pregnancy and maternity" and "Carers" groups are identified above.

Option 1 – Screening Sufficient

YES

Following this initial screening our judgement is that no further action is required.

Justification:

The correct policy and standards have been adhered to and there is no requirement for Public Consultation. There have been no identified negative impacts.

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Protected Characteristic	Issues identified	Action to be taken	Expected outcomes	Owner	Timescale	Cost implications