

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Responsible Officer

Elizabeth Milne - GT - ECE

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Helen Shulver - GT - ECE

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

Strategy/Policy

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Natural Environment and Coast - ECE

Responsible Head of Service

Helen Shulver - GT - ECE

Responsible Director

Matthew Smyth - GT - ECE

Aims and Objectives

Recognising that any recovery of nature would need targeted, co-ordinated and collaborative action the Environment Act 2021 set in place a requirement for the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). With 48 of these across England with no gaps or overlaps, each strategy would agree the priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities.

Responsible authorities were appointed to lead on the preparation of these strategies – for Kent and Medway, this was Kent County Council. Although prepared by KCC, the strategy is not a KCC strategy.

The Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) provides:

- Set of agreed, ambitious priorities for nature recovery.
- Practical and deliverable potential measures that will deliver on these agreed priorities.
- Spatially framed strategy that not only identifies what potential action but also where, focussing action to where it is most needed and where it will deliver the greatest benefits.
- Shared vision for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions in Kent and Medway.
- Framework for join-up action, developed with those who will be instrumental in its delivery.

The intention of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy is to direct action and investment to areas where it is most needed and will derive the greatest benefits. And to steer losses and impacts away from the county's most valuable natural assets.

Although the strategy will have benefits for people in terms of access, health and wellbeing, environmental services/improvements the scope of the strategy is required to focus on habitats and species.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

No

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

No

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Key to the strategy's preparation was a collaborative approach, with responsible authorities required to work with a wide range of stakeholders to agree what should be included. Stakeholders were considered to be anyone who could play a part in recovering nature and the wider environment – consequently it was a broad and wide ranging number of people that participated. Over 1,000 were engaged at some point with the strategy development - 678 of these through workshop participation. The strategy was also steered by a delivery group of partners and there were a number of technical advisory groups comprising experts and partners.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

The purpose of the LNRS is to recover nature and is habitat and species focussed. However there will be additional benefits to people that result from a healthy and functioning natural environment. These are applicable to all people, not just those with protected characteristics - but potentially could have greater impacts for these groups when action is targeted in areas known to be in greatest need of these benefits - for instance the use of nature based solutions to target air quality in areas with poorest quality would benefit all the local population but may have a greater impact on those with a disability protected characteristic where respiratory function is an issue.

All groups will benefit from improvements to the environment and reduced exposure to environmental risks such as pollution, flooding and heat stress. A reduction in these will be accompanied by

improvements in health and wellbeing. Health and wellbeing benefits will also come from increased access to bigger, better, more connected areas for nature.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Applicable

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

No

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race

Are there negative impacts for Race

No

Negative impacts for Race

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief

Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable