

Equality Impact Assessment Report	Please enter responses below in the right hand columns
Date to EIA panel, department, DLT or DMT	10/03/2014
Sign-off path for EIA (please add/delete as applicable)	DMT
Title of Project, business area, policy/strategy	Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – Mound remodelling
Author	XXXX
Job title, division and department	Project Officer, Cultural Development Team Communities, Housing and Environment Delivery Cluster
Contact email and telephone	XXXX
SLB Sponsor	Delivery Director - Communities, Housing & Environment

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

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a public park in the north of London Borough of Lambeth situated next to Vauxhall train station and adjacent to railway arches. An urban framework plan was designed and adopted in 2006 with the aims of creating a vibrant city hub that would benefit the whole community and act as an attraction for events and promote park usage. This phase of works will reduce the height of a large earth mound in the park. The central core of the mound will be removed opening up a level central space which will improve accessibility, open up sightlines to improve safety and begin the transformation of the park into an destination in London.

The project will:

- Improved sight lines across the park that are currently obscured.
- Improve safety and the perception of safety as the park has high levels of crime associated with the night time economy in the area.
- Open up and level an area of the park that can be used for art and performances.
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These outcomes have been highlighted through

- People are healthier for longer

High quality parks that are safe and accessible promote physical activity. Physical activity plays a key role in the prevention of specific diseases that include cardio-vascular disease, depression and obesity – CABE 2010 (Commission for Architecture in the Built

Environment).

- All Lambeth communities feel they are valued and part of their neighbourhoods

Creating green spaces that are freely accessible provide a much needed resource that everyone benefits from. Improving this free resource gives a sense that neighbourhoods are valued and looked after.

- Crime reduces

The Lambeth Designing Out Crime Officer advised and supports the plans to reduce the height of the mounds as it enables people to see across the park which improves passive surveillance and a sense of security.

- Older, disabled and vulnerable people can live independently and have control over their lives

As Lambeth parks are a freely accessible resource people from all backgrounds can enjoy the environment they provide. Entering a park and enjoying it as you please gives a sense of agency and control that more regulated space may not provide.

- People take greater responsibility for their neighbourhood

Residents are more inclined to look after a space that they value and enjoy and have had a say in creating. By providing spaces that people want to spend time in, a neighbourhood will take a greater level of responsibility in that space.

- People live in, work in and visit our vibrant and creative town centres.

Reducing the mounds represents the first step towards the long term vision for opening up the park access to create a new pedestrianized café and restaurant quarter along the arches facing out onto Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. When completed the project will be a

	great demonstration of the open and accessible public green space services that Lambeth provides as part of its commitment to residents of the borough.
2.0 Analysing your equalities evidence	
2.1 Evidence	
Protected characteristics and local equality characteristics	<p>Impact analysis For each characteristic please indicate the type of impact (i.e. positive, negative, positive and negative, none, or unknown), and:</p> <p>It is not anticipated that this project will cause any long standing adverse impact on any particular equalities groups. In the short term during the construction period people will not be able to access this particular part of the site, potentially causing disruption to residents and park users. In many respects, a public realm improvement scheme such as this benefits all groups in society.</p>
Race	<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 (Commision for Architecture in the Built Environment) research found that in urban areas, Black and Mixed Ethnicity 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 60.4% of Lambeth’s population represent a Black and Mixed Ethnicity 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 Black and Mixed Ethnicity communities as a means of influencing the access rates of this group. The design provides openly accessible green space and the effect will be positive to all race groups.</p>
Gender	<p>Positive</p> <p>The design is inclusive and does not support any bias based on Gender. There is no</p>

	discernible difference between the use of parks by men and women. In the Lambeth co-operative parks survey, 90% of respondents considered parks to have a positive impact with no significant difference between men and women. 63% of the respondents were female.
Gender re-assignment	Positive/Unknown The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on Gender re-assignment. However there is no specific evidence to support this, but as parks provide opportunities for social interaction, rest and recovery, as well more direct health benefits, its likely that the proposal will have a positive effect on gender re-assignment equalities groups.
Disability	Positive The Lambeth co-operative parks consultation showed 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. The design is levelling a part of the park that is currently made up of a large mound that at present could be hard to access for people with mobility disabilities. The design when completed will make more of the park accessible to more people.
Age	Positive The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on age. The benefits of green space for young people is particularly significant with 62% of young people in Lambeth using the parks and open spaces provided by Lambeth Council and at the time of the Residents Survey (2013), over two thirds (69%) had visited a local or playground in the past month. Positively, green space has been linked with reduced obesity in children and young people which is significantly increasing – particularly amongst children and young people in England. This project will help promote
Sexual orientation	Positive The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. The area

	has a high percentage of Gay and Lesbian business's and especially the nightclubs that open on the weekend. The works will make the area safer and more inviting when completed which will have a positive impact on area and the nightclub customers. This has is also in-line with the guidance of the designing out crime officer for Lambeth.
Religion and belief	Positive The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on religion and belief. The benefits that the scheme will bring will have no bias towards any religious or belief group.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive The design will make the park more accessible to women who are pregnant, as well as opening up a large area that would currently be hard to access with a buggy or pram. The project will positively affect the way pregnancy and maternity users use the park.
Marriage and civil partnership	Positive The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on marriage and civil partnership.
Socio-economic factors	Positive 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 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 (CABE 2010). This highlights the importance of Lambeth investing in parks and green spaces so that they can continue to provide this important function. Residents of Bishops ward where the project is based are 65% social tenants (state of the borough, 2012), compared to 38% in the whole borough. This is a statistically significant difference – and reinforces the importance of the scheme.
Language	Positive

	The design is inclusive and does not discriminate based on language. There are no significant language implications from the completion of these works.
Health	<p>Positive</p> <p>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>This project will help promote the benefits that green space brings, and enhancing the quality of green space should be seen as an on-going priority in the Borough.</p>
2.2 Gaps in evidence base	There are no gaps in the evidence base relating to specific issues in the provision in this new park feature. There is at time a lack in specific evidence relating to some of the equalities groups, but due to the nature of a publically open and accessible green space it is fair to say that no groups will be negatively impacted upon.
3.0 Consultation, Involvement and Coproduction	
3.1 Coproduction, involvement and consultation	Extensive consultation has been carried out by Lambeth and the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens with an external consultant to develop and adopt the urban framework plan. The friends of group are a community partner and have demonstrated a commitment to actively encourage broad community involvement. An example of this is the friends of delivering fliers to the surrounding residents to provide updates. There are bi-weekly meetings between Lambeth and other community groups and business representatives in the area that ensure joined-up thinking and clear communication.

These groups are:

The Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens
Vauxhall One (the Business Improvement District co-ordinators in Vauxhall)
Local police – Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Designing Out Crime officer – Met Police
Gay Business Forum
Royal Vauxhall Tavern
Vauxhall City Farm
Vauxhall Tea House Theatre
Vauxhall Trust
Kennington Vauxhall Oval forum
VGERTA Vauxhall Gardens Estate Residents & Tenants Association
DSDHA Architects
Dog Walkers

Lambeth Council

Lambeth Council officers across Parks, Cultural Development, Community Safety, Transport, Legal, Events and Public Realm.

No specific information is available on the consultees but the broad and representative groups who take part in the bi-weekly meetings means that as a group we are confident that the needs and interests of different equalities groups have been meaningfully considered. An important meeting where the works were agreed with the project steering group was 27/03/13 where there was positive feedback for the scheme. A comment that summaries the justification was *'the proposal was well received, especially with regards to the focus on improving safety through increased visual permeability'*.

Further consultation and community engagement will take place to inform the more detailed developments within this phase of works. This is to ensure 'buy-in' from key

	stakeholders and take a strategic approach in-line with the urban framework plan. This will consider any user needs and obtain value for money in a cooperative and productive manner. As part of the further consultation and community engagement, we will ensure representation across all equalities groups
3.2 Gaps in coproduction, consultation and involvement	Due to the cross partner working that has been taking place in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens consultation is representative of a wide variety of groups in the area. Due to the nature of the works there are no affected user groups. No facilities are being introduced or removed. The focus of the project is on improving safety for all park users.
4.0 Conclusions, justification and action	
4.1 Conclusions and justification	<p>Parks can have a hugely positive impact on all sections of our communities, considering their links to improved health and wellbeing, a sense of community, and social interaction. As a result the continuing improvement of our parks and open spaces remain of utmost importance and relevance for everyone. The project addresses the specific need to improve safety in the park which all groups will benefit from.</p> <p>To conclude, the delivery of the project will have a positive impact on everyone that uses the park at present, and encourage new park users to receive these benefits in the future.</p>
4.2 Equality Action plan	
Equality Issue	Mitigating actions
That an equality group may not be aware of the proposals.	On-going efforts are made to identify park users and residents that have not been made aware of the proposals through the existing channels of communication. 07/03/14. Project Officer
Equalities issues must be embedded in on-going consultation and any future proposal to make sure that a current	The programme of work will be coproduced with the Friends of Group and other community groups. Equalities team advice should be sought before conducting any further projects in the area.

and up to date understanding exists.	07/03/14. Project Officer
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	
EIA review date	
Assessment sign off (name/job title):	Head of Policy, Research and Customer Relations

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).