

**SP23 Equality Impact Assessment - Countryside Service operating model – service users**

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**Section one – information about the service and service change**

Service affected	Countryside Service
<b>Please provide a short description of the service / policy/project/project phase</b>	The Countryside Service manages 8 visitor attractions (5 Country Parks, 2 Farm Attractions, 1 National Nature Reserve) 80 countryside sites, 3000 miles of rights of way and statutory responsibility for maintaining the definitive map for Hampshire, a rural development programme and series of capital works projects to improve and develop assets and service delivery. The service has over 3m counted visits each year of which 2m are to the visitor attractions. The primary users and customers are Hampshire residents, with visitor attractions attracting most visitors from within a 30-minute drive time.

<b>Please explain the new/changed service/policy/project</b>	The service will be exploring options for a different operating model for the Countryside Service including greater integrated working with other services, or an alternative operating model with the aim to remove cash limit of discretionary activity in the longer term. As part of the SP23 programme the anticipated change is expected to focus on efficiencies and integrated working and is not expected to significantly change or alter the service delivered to the public. If a different operating model is recommended this change will come after 2023.
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**Engagement and consultation**

The County Council's *Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget* consultation (2021-2023) will seek residents' and stakeholders' views on strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. Where applicable, detailed proposals for making savings will be subject to further, more detailed 'stage two' consultation before any decisions on service specific changes are made.

**Has any pre-consultation engagement been carried out?**

(Delete as appropriate)

	<b>No</b>	
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**Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform.**

Describe who was engaged or consulted. What was the outcome of the activity and how have the results influenced what you are doing? If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

Potential options for different operating model and/or integrated working arrangements are not expected to alter the 'end' service delivered to the public and therefore no public consultation will be required.

**Section two: Assessment**

**Table 1 Impact Assessment**

Protected characteristic (see <a href="#">EIA Guidance</a> for considerations)	Positive	Neutral	Negative - low	Negative - Medium	Negative - High	Affects staff, public or both?
Age		X				Public
Disability		X				Public
Gender reassignment		X				Public
Pregnancy and maternity		X				Public
Race		X				Public
Religion or belief		X				Public
Sex		X				Public
Sexual orientation		X				Public
Marriage & civil partnership		X				Public
Poverty		X				Public
Rurality		X				Public

Table 2 Geographical impact

Does the proposal impact on a specific area?

Area	Yes / no	Area	Yes / no	Area	Yes / no
All Hampshire	Yes	Fareham		New Forest	
Basingstoke and Deane		Gosport		Rushmoor	
East Hampshire		Hart		Test Valley	
Eastleigh		Havant		Winchester	

### **Section three: Equality Statement**

**Table 3 Consideration of and explanation for neutral or low negative impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having neutral or low negative impact
All protected characteristics	Potential options for different operating model and/or integrated working arrangements are not expected to alter the 'end' service delivered to the public and therefore the likely impact to the public and groups with protected characteristics has been identified as neutral.

**Table 4 Explanation and mitigation for medium and high impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having medium or high negative impact	Is there a Geographical impact? If so, please explain -use list below to identify geographical area(s)	Short explanation of mitigating actions
N/A			

**Table 5 Consideration of and explanation for positive impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having positive impact
N/A	

**Box 1 Please set out any additional information which you think is relevant to this impact assessment:**

The nature of this proposal focuses on internal operational changes and this EIA considers impacts on the public. A separate EIA considering the impacts on staff for this proposal has been completed.

**Box 2**

**If appropriate, (i.e., it is immediately evident that a full EIA is not necessary) please provide a short succinct assessment to show that due regard has been given and that there is no requirement for a full EIA:**

This activity is focused on the way in which services are delivered, to improve ways of working and opportunities to integrate and change the way we deliver services so it is anticipated this will have negligible impact on the public or service users. However, a subsequent EIA will be completed once the proposals have been identified.