

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Rights of Way and Countryside Path Recovery

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Department: Culture, Communities and Business Services

Date of assessment: 10/03/2021

Description of current service/policy

Hampshire has an extensive public rights of way network across the whole county that provides opportunities for the public to explore the countryside, offering benefits for both mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Use of the rights of way network along with paths across the whole countryside estate and at Country Parks have increased significantly over the Covid 19 pandemic.

This winter has been one of the wettest on record and the impact of this, in combination with increased footfall and use by other uses, has seen a deterioration in the surface of many paths across the county. A programme of works is in development to improve the surface of paths where reports have been received.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

This paper updates members on the increased use and resulting condition of the path networks in Hampshire as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and seeks approval for a £500,000 Path Recovery programme to carry out remedial works to improve the condition of the worst affected rights of way and countryside paths.

This programme will see paths at parks, sites, the Basingstoke Canal, and on the rights of way network, surfaced. This work will improve the over all accessibility of the paths and ensure resilience to increased use and wet weather.

The programme of paths to be identified for works is in development, utilising a criteria including issues reported and geographic location.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? No

No consultation has been undertaken prior to the production of the EIA. The Hampshire Countryside Access Forum discussed this proposal on the 9th March and were supportive of the proposal.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Positive	More paths will be surfaced / improved, making the route more accessible to customers with limited mobility - facilitating improvements to the natural environment benefiting both physical and mental health.	
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Neutral		

Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Positive	More paths will be surfaced / improved, making the route more accessible to customers with young children and pushchairs, facilitating improvements to the natural environment benefiting both physical and mental health.	
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information

The programme of works is expected to be predominantly delivered between April and October 2021