

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail

Brief details of the subject: The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership (LCRP) are a strategic partnership made up of local authorities and third sector organisations seeking to improve, enhance and interpret the Lancaster Canal from the historic Canal Head in Kendal through to Lancaster. In recent years, their focus has shifted towards an accessible 'Towpath Trail', which would increase users and access for low mobility users (including pushchairs, wheelchairs), walkers and cyclists and promote the forgotten heritage of the Lancaster Canal. This analysis form relates to a financial contribution by SLDC towards the delivery of surface improvements of the Towpath Trail.

List of main stakeholders: Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership is made up of 8 main stakeholders/partners - Canal and River Trust, Lancaster Canal Trust, Inland Waterways Association, Kendal Town Council, South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council, Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council.

Consultation/engagement undertaken: Online public consultation and survey/questionnaire conducted by the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership with support from partner organisations and working with active travel consultants in Summer 2021. The consultation yielded 550 respondents and was fundamentally in favour of the aspirations of the LCRP.

Evidence, research and other sources of information used: n/a

Impacts on people

What impacts/issues have been identified about how the proposal impacts on people?

*Each category is rated either: **Positive, Neutral or Negative***

Age: **Positive**

This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility for all people in the district.

Disability: **Positive**

This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility for all people in the district.

Gender reassignment: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Marriage and civil partnership: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Pregnancy and maternity: **Positive**

This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility for all people in the district.

Race/ethnicity: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Religion or belief: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Sex/gender: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Sexual orientation: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Armed forces families: **Neutral**

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on this category.

Rurality: **Positive**

This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility for all people in the district.

Socio-economic disadvantage: **Positive**

This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility for all people in the district.

Equality action plan

What actions will be taken to eliminate or minimise the negative impacts identified above?

Actions	Who's responsible	Completed (Date)
It is not anticipated that there will be any direct negative impacts of this funding contribution on the groups identified above. In the design and delivery of our strategic partners and any resulting funding contributions, we are required to consider our public sector equality duty.	Operational Lead – Place and Environment	01/10/2022

What actions will be taken to advance equality?

Actions	Who's responsible	Completed (Date)
A thorough and open consultation process involving community representatives and the wider public has taken place, ensuring that a wide range of voices are heard.	Operational Lead – Place and Environment	01/12/2021
The purpose of the equality duty is to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the day-to-day business of the council – equality and discrimination are included as standard with grant agreements executed by the Council, to ensure that grant recipients are acting lawfully in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.	Monitoring Officer	01/12/2022

What actions will be taken to foster positive relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?

Actions	Who's responsible	Completed (Date)
Projects funded by the Council should have a positive impact on the lives of all people in the district. This funding contribution is intended to improve the rural connectivity and increase accessibility all people in the district and visiting the area also.	Operational Lead – Place and Environment	01/12/2022

Report details

Date of report: 22/09/2022

EIA Author(s): Ruth Leahy

Director: Simon Rowley, Director of Customer and Commercial Services

Document version number: v1

Date for review: 01/12/2022

EIA forwarded to Strategy Specialist: No

Glossary

Age: This refers to a person having a particular age (for example, 32 year-olds) or being within an age group (for example, 18-30 year-olds).

Armed Forces Families: Those who have served or who are serving in the Armed Forces and their families.

Civil partnership: Legal recognition of a same-sex couple's relationship. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a range of legal matters.

Disability: A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Includes: Physical/sensory disability, mental health or learning disability.

Gender reassignment: A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.

Maternity: The period after giving birth. It is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, including as a result of breastfeeding.

Race: It refers to a group of people defined by their colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins. Includes, Asian, Black and White minority ethnic groups including, Eastern Europeans, Irish people and Gypsy Travellers.

Religion or belief: "Religion" means any religion, including a reference to a lack of religion. "Belief" includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (for example, Atheism). The category includes Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and non religious beliefs such as Humanism.

Rurality: South Lakeland is defined as 'Rural-80' – this means we have at least 80 percent of our population in rural settlements and larger market towns. Issues affecting the health and wellbeing of rural communities include: low-paid work, unemployment of young people, high costs of housing and fuel poverty, poor access to health services, lack of public transport and poorer broadband and mobile phone network availability. Social isolation is also an issue especially among older people – in South Lakeland 27.7% of the population are aged over 65. The ageing rural population brings a number of challenges. These include the fact that older people often have poorer health and greater care needs, issues compounded by the greater distances to healthcare services and poor public transport. South Lakeland (2015) features most poorly in deprivation indices in "Barriers to Housing and Services Domain" (which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and issues relating to access to housing, such as affordability) and the "Living Environment Deprivation Domain" (The 'indoors' living environment measures the quality of housing; while the 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents).

Sexual orientation: This is whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

Socio-economic disadvantage: This includes people on low incomes, as well as issues around rural and urban deprivation, such as access to services and transport. SLDC must adopt effective measures to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class. Socio-economic disadvantage includes: Income, employment, health, education, housing, discrimination and local concentrations of deprivation.