

## Appendix 2: Equality Analysis



# Equality Analysis

## Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

<b>EA Name</b>	Natural Rivers ERDF Project
<b>Directorate</b>	Economy
<b>Service Area</b>	Climate Change & Environment
<b>Type</b>	New/Proposed Function
<b>EA Summary</b>	The Natural Rivers project will deliver the first phase of a catchment-based approach to blue and green infrastructure improvements in Birmingham, focusing on the upper Rea sub-catchment. The project will support the establishment of a high quality ecological network, to enable 125 hectares to attain better conservation status, as well as delivering socio-economic benefits. The project complements planned flood alleviation works implemented by the Rea Catchment Partnership. The three year project includes works to improve channel morphology (reducing flood risk and contributing to Water Framework Directive requirements), in addition to habitat enhancements to improve ecological quality and connectivity of adjacent open space corridors.
<b>Reference Number</b>	EA001360
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### Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

#### **Overall Purpose**

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

#### **Relevant Protected Characteristics**

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

## **1 Activity Type**

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Function.

## **2 Overall Purpose**

### **2.1 What the Activity is for**

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What is the purpose of this Function and expected outcomes?

The Natural Rivers project would deliver the first phase of a catchment-based approach to blue and green infrastructure improvements in Birmingham, focusing on the upper River Rea sub-catchment in south-west Birmingham. The project will support the establishment of a high quality ecological network, to enable over 120ha of land (POS and watercourses) and to attain better conservation status, as well as delivering socio-economic benefits. The three year programme of activity will include works to improve channel morphology (resulting in reduced flood risk and contributing to Water Framework Directive requirements), as well as habitat enhancements to improve habitat quality and connectivity within public open space corridors along the River Rea and its tributaries Stonehouse Brook, Bourn Brook, Merritts Brook/Griffins Brook/The Bourn and Callow Brook.

ERDF funding is being sought to deliver the project. An outline application submitted in May 2016 and an invitation to progress to a Full Application was received from DCLG on 15/08/2016. The closing date for this application is 30/09/2016.

The overall cost of the project is in the region of 1.3m, with 50% of the project funding coming from ERDF. Match funding is required for the remaining 50%, the majority of which will be provided by the Environment Agency (c. 570k). Additional match funding will be provided through officers input from the Sustainability Team (Economy Directorate) and Parks and Nature Conservation (Place Directorate) (c. 47k) and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country (c. 32k).

A 0.4FTE finance/monitoring officer would be appointed, funded wholly by ERDF, to provide additional capacity to support project delivery.

BCC would act as accountable body for the project.

As part of the Green Commissions Natural Capital Roundtable, the Sustainability Team is working with Council colleagues and public, private and third sector partners, to highlight the importance of natural capital in delivering the City's priorities for economic and social growth. The availability of European Structural and Investment Funds to support this work presents a key opportunity for the City to secure significant resources to invest in enhancing Birmingham's natural assets and biodiversity, which underpins the natural capital approach.

The project would deliver biodiversity enhancements on c. 125ha of publicly accessible land and watercourses in the following wards: Bartley Green, Bournville, Brandwood, Edgbaston, Harborne, Kings Norton, Longbridge, Moseley and Kings Heath, Northfield, Quinton, Selly Oak, Weoley. In addition, the project will deliver wide-ranging socio-economic benefits to local communities, such as reduced flood risk and enhanced health and well-being.

The project supports the delivery of the strategic outcomes of A Strong Economy and A Healthy, Happy City, as set out in the Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+, in particular the sub-outcomes:

- An enterprising, innovative green city delivering sustainable growth, meeting the needs of the population and strengthening Birmingham's global standing; and
- Sports and physical activities that contribute to people's health and wellbeing and delivered in partnership with others, where parks and open spaces are maintained and enhanced to enable citizens to improve their health and quality of life.

The project aligns with strategic objectives in the Birmingham Development Plan relating to improving health and well-being, conserving the natural environment and securing infrastructure to support future growth and prosperity. In particular, the project aligns with the following objectives: B1.3, B1.4, B1.5, B1.6, B1.7, B1.8, B1.9, B1.10, B1.11, B1.12, B1.13, B1.14, B1.15, B1.16, B1.17, B1.18, B1.19, B1.20, B1.21, B1.22, B1.23, B1.24, B1.25, B1.26, B1.27, B1.28, B1.29, B1.30, B1.31, B1.32, B1.33, B1.34, B1.35, B1.36, B1.37, B1.38, B1.39, B1.40, B1.41, B1.42, B1.43, B1.44, B1.45, B1.46, B1.47, B1.48, B1.49, B1.50, B1.51, B1.52, B1.53, B1.54, B1.55, B1.56, B1.57, B1.58, B1.59, B1.60, B1.61, B1.62, B1.63, B1.64, B1.65, B1.66, B1.67, B1.68, B1.69, B1.70, B1.71, B1.72, B1.73, B1.74, B1.75, B1.76, B1.77, B1.78, B1.79, B1.80, B1.81, B1.82, B1.83, B1.84, B1.85, B1.86, B1.87, B1.88, B1.89, B1.90, B1.91, B1.92, B1.93, B1.94, B1.95, B1.96, B1.97, B1.98, B1.99, B1.100, B1.101, B1.102, B1.103, B1.104, B1.105, B1.106, B1.107, B1.108, B1.109, B1.110, B1.111, B1.112, B1.113, B1.114, B1.115, B1.116, B1.117, B1.118, B1.119, B1.120, B1.121, B1.122, B1.123, B1.124, B1.125, B1.126, B1.127, B1.128, B1.129, B1.130, B1.131, B1.132, 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For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Public Service Excellence	Yes
<u>Comment</u> This is a partnership project, with the Council working closely with the Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. Securing ERDF funding will match funding from these organisations to deliver biodiversity and quality of life enhancements which would not otherwise be achievable via the Council's mainstream budgets.	
A Fair City	Yes
<u>Comment</u> the project would create opportunities for volunteering. The WT has a track record of community engagement in conservation projects.	
A Prosperous City	Yes
<u>Comment</u> Enhancing biodiversity and strengthening the role of the natural environment to deliver vital services for Birmingham's citizens is the at the heart of the project. The project is seeking funding under ERDF Priority Axis 6: Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency. Projects applying for funding must demonstrate how their proposed activities achieve the investment priorities' specific objective, in this case, Investments in Green and Blue infrastructure and actions that support the provision of ecosystem services on which businesses and communities depend to increase local natural capital and support sustainable economic growth. Indicative actions supported may include investment in green and blue infrastructure such as green corridors in urban areas and waterways.	
A Democratic City	Yes
<u>Comment</u> This project focuses on the upper part of the River Rea catchment which has been subject to a number of serious flooding incidents in recent years. Project activities would seek to reduce flood risk for communities within the sub-catchment.	

## 2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
<u>Comment</u> The Environment Agency and Wildlife Trust are key stakeholders and are involved as project partners.	
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	Yes
<u>Comment</u> BCC will act as the project lead and accountable body for the project. Project management will be delivered by the project lead, with input from the Sustainability Team (Ecologist, Carbon Policy and Sustainable Development Officer) and from Parks and Nature Conservation (Conservation and Woodland Manager).  Additional capacity will be required in terms of project monitoring and administration, and therefore a 0.4 FTE monitoring officer will be recruited by BCC, and funded wholly via ERDF funding. In the first instance, a suitable candidate would be sought internally; if this search was unsuccessful, the post would be advertised externally. An alternative option would be to consider the secondment of a suitably experienced member of staff from one of the delivery partners.	
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes
<u>Comment</u> The project should deliver environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities within the sub-catchment.	

## 2.3 Analysis on Initial Assessment

Delivery of the Natural Rivers Project is expected to enhance the quality of the natural environment, and promote health and well-being and other socio-economic benefits for communities in the project area. Negative impacts on service users/stakeholders and employees are not anticipated. As such, project delivery would not be detrimental to any of the protected characteristics and therefore there is no need to progress to a Full Assessment.



### **3 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment**

Due regard has been demonstrated through the completion of this assessment. There is no need to proceed to a Full Assessment.

### **4 Review Date**

23/06/17

### **5 Action Plan**

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.

