

Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Aston Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMH)- Landscape Buffer
Directorate	Economy
Service Area	P&R Planning And Development
Type	New/Proposed Policy
EA Summary	A landscaped buffer is proposed as part of the Aston Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMH), which is one of six economic zones in Birmingham to promote economic growth. A number of buffers are proposed to mitigate the effects of new development, one of which is being delivered by the City Council. The buffer that is subject to this EA will be delivered between Aston Parish Church and new industrial development, and will enhance the setting of the churchyard as well as providing a pedestrian link between Aston Hall Road and Serpentine Road.
Reference Number	EA001449
Task Group Manager	Kelly.Whitehouse@birmingham.gov.uk
Task Group Member	
Date Approved	2016-10-04 01:00:00 +0100
Senior Officer	craig.rowbottom@birmingham.gov.uk
Quality Control Officer	Richard.Woodland@birmingham.gov.uk

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 Policy.

2 Overall Purpose

2.1 What the Activity is for

What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?	<p>The Council is currently working with its partners to progress the delivery of the Aston Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMH), which is one of six economic zones in Birmingham to promote economic growth.</p> <p>To help stimulate development, a Local Development Order has been adopted for part of the AMH, which grants planning permission for B1 (b), B1 (c) and B2 uses on a number of key sites. As part of the LDO, a number of landscaped buffers have been designated to ensure that new development does not adversely impact on adjacent land uses, one of which is being delivered by the Council. The buffer scheme subject to this EA will be delivered between Aston Parish Church and new industrial development, and has been developed in consultation with the Church (as landowner). The scheme consists of a new boundary treatment along the churchyard boundary and a pedestrian and cycle link between Aston Hall Road and Serpentine Road.</p>
---	---

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Public Service Excellence	No
A Fair City	No
A Prosperous City	Yes
A Democratic City	No

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	No
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	No
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

2.3 Analysis on Initial Assessment

The Councils Landscape Practice Group (LPG) has designed the buffer scheme, and there has been a continuous dialogue of consultation with Planning and Regeneration, the future occupiers of the AMH and Aston Parish Church. This dialogue has ensured that the buffer strip is user friendly for all potential users, including those with mobility issues. Discussions with the Church, which were necessary as the proposed buffer is immediately adjacent to the churchyard boundary, have informed the finalised scheme. As the church is located within a Conservation Area, it needed to be ensured that the buffer and associated boundary treatment would be in-keeping with the historic setting.

The LPG is well experienced with designing and project managing the delivery of landscape schemes across Birmingham, and as such, have designed the buffer scheme with the relevant protected characteristics in mind. They've ensured that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on people with restricted mobility and the design will have overall benefits for movement. The site will be fully accessible to pedestrians and cyclists with no steps or ramps creating restrictions for those with mobility problems. Entry points from adjacent footpaths will be level and wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and pushchairs. The site will be kept secure from vehicular ingress through the careful design of the entrances and the inclusion of fixed and removable bollards.

The AMH is a major success story for Birmingham; the majority of the first phase is underway with the first occupier operational (Hydraforce), and two further developments under construction, due for completion in early 2017. New

development is being accompanied by highway improvements and enhancements to the public realm; the landscape buffer relates to the latter and will help to improve the physical environment and enhance the setting of Aston Parish Church as well as providing a useful link for local communities.

3.1 Disability

3.1.1 Disability - Differential Impact

Disability	Relevant
------------	----------

3.1.2 Disability - Impact

Describe how the Policy meets the needs of Individuals with a disability?	<p>The buffer scheme has been designed with all potential users in mind. The site will be fully accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users with no steps or ramps which would impede those with restricted mobility. Entry points from adjacent footpaths will be level and wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and pushchairs.</p> <p>Given the professional advice and experience of the LPG in designing and delivering landscape schemes across the City, it has not been necessary to obtain feedback on the scheme from individuals with a disability. The preferred design for the scheme has incorporated industry standards and best practice and will be accessible for all.</p>
Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?	The buffer scheme requires planning approval, which was granted on 15th September 2016. A Design and Access Statement accompanied the planning application, and contains an 'Access and Security' section, which states that the buffer is accessible for all users. The planning application was consulted upon, and no objections were received in relation to the design of the scheme.
Have you received any other feedback about the Policy in meeting the needs of Individuals with a disability?	No
You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Not applicable
Is there anything about the Policy and the way it affects Individuals with a disability which needs highlighting?	No

3.1.3 Disability - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of Individuals with a disability on the impact of the Policy?	No
If not, why not?	There are no plans to consult relevant individuals
Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Policy on Individuals with a disability?	Yes

If so, how did you obtain these views?	The City Council's Landscape Practice Group have designed the buffer scheme, and have applied industry standards/ best practice to ensure that the scheme will be accessible for all, including wheelchair users and those with mobility issues. The LPG have extensive experience in the design and delivery of landscape schemes and the buffer proposal will not adversely impact on any of the protected characteristics.
Is there anything about the Policy and the way it affects Individuals with a disability which needs highlighting?	No

3.1.4 **Disability - Additional Work**

Do you need any more information to complete the assessment?	No
Is there any more work you feel is necessary to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Policy has a role in preventing Individuals with a disability being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their disability?	No
Do you think that the Policy could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No
Do you think that the Policy will take account of disabilities even if it means treating Individuals with a disability more favourably?	No
Do you think that the Policy could assist Individuals with a disability to participate more?	Yes
Do you think that the Policy could assist in promoting positive attitudes to Individuals with a disability?	Yes

3.2 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

A Full Assessment has been undertaken and it's concluded that the buffer scheme does not adversely impact on the relevant protected characteristics.

The cycle/ pedestrian link which forms part of the buffer is suitable for those with restricted mobility. The scheme therefore meets the City Council's responsibility in relation to equality.

4 Review Date

20/09/16

5 Action Plan

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