

Title of proposed EIA	Equality Impact Assessment for the City Centre Public Realm Improvement Project
Reference No	EQUA285
EA is in support of	New Strategy
Review Frequency	Annually
Date of first review	06/04/2020
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Transport and Connectivity
Service Area	Project Delivery Team
Responsible Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lucy Ronaldson
Quality Control Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Janet L Hinks
Accountable Officer(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Richards
Purpose of proposal	To transform the public realm in the city centre, and create an attractive, welcoming and safe environment to attract more visitors to Birmingham city centre. The city centre will act as a gateway for many first time visitors to the 2022 Commonwealth Game
Data sources	Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies; relevant research
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community
Age details:	<p>The scheme will deliver public realm improvements in the city centre, including improved lighting, flush kerbs and permanent Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures. The scheme also aims to further pedestrianise the city core during busy day-time hours, restricting loading and access and therefore improving the safety and security of the city centre. Children, young people and the elderly can be more concerned over personal security and be more sensitive to changes however these proposals will positively impact these groups.</p> <p>The scheme is anticipated to have some positive impacts with regards to</p>

age of users. The proposed installation of permanent HVM measures to replace the existing obtrusive temporary National Barrier Asset deployed will result in easier permeability through the barriers. Also, improved lighting, flush kerbs and improved street furniture will benefit elderly pedestrians by improving visibility at night, reducing trip hazards and providing ample benches for the elderly to rest. The city core will become pedestrianised during busy daytime hours by limiting access and loading activity through the use of the HVM barriers which will improve the overall safety of the city core for all age groups.

It is acknowledged that during the construction of the public realm scheme there is likely to be some disruption to pedestrians, in particular elderly citizens who are less mobile and may find traversing the works more difficult. To mitigate this problem, site investigations along with a phasing plan will be created to identify appropriate timescales for the works to be completed, minimising the construction footprint as much as possible.

The consultation received responses from a range of age groups. The majority of the age categories based on the Ladywood mid-2018 population estimates were over-represented. The 0-17 age category was under-represented however this is not seen as unusual. Overall, improvements to the public realm, street furniture (including benches) and flush surfaces will benefit all ages, especially elderly people and those with pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Disability details:

The scheme will deliver public realm improvements in the city centre including new paving, street furniture and measures to restrict vehicles in the city core during peak pedestrian hours to ensure the safety and security of pedestrians. This will be a positive improvement for people with disabilities as the flush surface will make it more accessible for wheelchair users. New street furniture including benches will provide greater provision for people with and without disabilities to sit and rest. Less intrusive, permanent HVM will also make travelling through the city centre by foot less challenging. More spacing between the bollards will allow more pedestrians, wheelchair users and pushchairs to permeate through the HVM whilst providing protection against hostile vehicles.

2011 Census data was collected for the Ladywood Ward and compared against the demographic data provided by consultation respondents. There was an over representation from people with disabilities responding to the consultation as 17% of respondents stated they had a disability compared with census data which shows 11% of people in the affected ward had a disability.

The public consultation included face-to-face and written engagement with disability groups including Pocklington Trust and Guide Dogs to seek their feedback on the scheme proposals. Responses received from these organisations in addition to individual respondents, who stated they had a disability, were analysed to ensure any potential concerns would be captured during detailed design.

The most common comment received was a lack of colour contrast between the materials proposed so visually impaired users would be able to identify where hazards may be.

Although flush kerbs were welcomed, appropriate delineation is required between footways and areas where vehicle movements will still occur to allow blind and partially sighted people to differentiate between footway and carriageway. De-cluttering of street furniture and replacement of temporary HVM measures with less intrusive permanent measures were also welcomed.

Some respondents who stated they had a disability mentioned concerns about possibly removing disabled parking on Bennetts Hill and that access to the city centre would become harder for them as public transport is not an option. The impact of the potential loss of disabled parking on Bennetts Hill will be considered during the detailed design of Phase 2 and development of the TRO. A suitable location to re-locate these spaces will be sought, if deemed appropriate.

As part of the detailed design, the design consultant will develop a design that meets all disability design guidance whilst also looking to address the comments and suggestions received as part of this consultation.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Not Applicable

Gender details:

2018 mid-year population estimates show that Ladywood have 46%/54% split of females and males respectively. The consultation responses represented a 38%/51% split of females to male, with 11% not answering or preferring not to say.

It is not anticipated that the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their gender.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Not Applicable

Gender reassignment details:

It is not anticipated the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage individuals with gender reassignment.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Not Applicable

Marriage and civil partnership details:

It is not anticipated the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are married or in civil partnerships.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Improvements to the public realm in the city centre including improved lighting, flush kerbs and street furniture e.g. benches is likely to have a positive impact on pregnant women and young mothers. The existing HVM barriers filter all users through one entrance, which can create challenges for pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass through during peak times however, the permanent measures will be less intrusive and will provide multiple locations for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass whilst protecting the city against hostile vehicle attacks.

As mentioned above, there is likely to be some disruption to pedestrians during construction however this will be mitigated through a detailed phasing and construction plan to ensure only small parts of the street are inaccessible to pedestrians at any given time – whilst ensuring appropriate signage is in place.

It is not anticipated that the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are pregnant or who are young mothers.

Protected characteristics: Race

Not Applicable

Race details:

Data collected from the 2011 census shows that 48% of the population of Ladywood identify as White and 48% as Black and Ethnic Minorities (BAME). Respondents identifying themselves as white ethnicity represented 81% of total respondents with BAME only representing 8%. This was a 40% under-presentation of the BAME community.

It is not anticipated that the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their race.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Not Applicable

Religion or beliefs details:

2011 census data shows that within the Ladywood ward, 41% of the population are Christians and 31% of the population state that they do not have a religion. Christians were slightly under-represented in the consultation with 31%, however an over representation from people with no religion of 47% of respondents.

It is not anticipated that the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people who have a religious belief.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Not Applicable

Sexual orientation details:

62% of respondents to the consultation identified themselves as heterosexual or straight with 23% choosing not to say. This question was not asked in the 2011 census so there is no data to compare this to. However, it is not considered that the City Centre Public Realm scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their sexual orientation.

Socio-economic impacts

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended NO

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?

Consultation analysis

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

What data is required in the future?

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s) No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

The scheme has no adverse impacts on the protected characteristics groups listed above. Many of the measures proposed will provide benefits to pedestrians and cyclists as well as people with mobility issues. Birmingham will act as a gateway to the 2022 Commonwealth Games with many people visiting Birmingham for the first time. The improvements to the public realm will transform the city core into an attractive and safe environment which will contribute towards a lasting legacy and help facilitate economic growth.

As part of the City Centre Public Realm scheme, the City Council undertook extensive public and stakeholder engagement. Public consultation took place between the 13th January 2020 and the 21st February 2020. In total 598 responses were received via the City Council's consultation platform, BeHeard. Further responses were

received from Transport for West Midlands, cycle groups, disability groups and other key stakeholders.

The results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet as part of the Full Business Case. The views of individuals and groups representing protected characteristic groups were invited to comment on the impact of the scheme proposals on their protected characteristic. All comments received were considered as part of the consultation analysis. No adverse impacts relating to protected characteristics were received.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

No

Quality Control Officer comments

Ok to proceed to Accountable Officer
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Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

No

Decision by Accountable Officer

Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

28/10/2020

Reasons for approval or rejection

approved, meets all requirements and offers full explanations

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Julie Bach

Person or Group

Content Type: Item

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