

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Rob Belcher - Parks Allotments Countryside - Birkenhead Park Gen Man

Email address: robbelcher@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: **Matthew Humble - Parks & Environment - HOS: Parks & Countryside & Fleet Manager**

Chief Officer: **Jason Gooding - Director of Neighbourhoods**

Directorate: Neighbourhood Services

Date: April 2024

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Birkenhead Park's World Heritage project

In April 2023, the UK Government announced the inclusion of 'Birkenhead Park, the pioneering People's Park' on its 'new' Tentative List of potential sites for World Heritage Site nomination to UNESCO over the next 10 years. Birkenhead Park is one of only five sites on this exclusive list for the United Kingdom and its overseas territories.

The current phase of the initiative is to work towards a formal nomination to UNESCO. This could be within the next 2 years and will be submitted by the UK Government, forming the basis on which UNESCO's World Heritage Committee will make a decision on inscribing Birkenhead Park as a World Heritage Site.

This initiative supports the following Wirral Council Plan Priorities: -

- To deliver high quality efficient universal services to all residents
- To play our part in addressing the climate emergency and protecting our environment
- To deliver our ambitious regeneration programme through increased investment, jobs and new businesses throughout the borough

This initiative also supports the following Wirral Council Plan Themes: -

- Theme 1 – Working together to create a more efficient, effective and accessible council

- Theme 4 – Working together to deliver people focused regeneration
- Theme 5 – Working together to protect our environment

This is an initial assessment. This assessment may be reviewed and amended when necessary to ensure ongoing compliance with Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Committee meeting?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – June 2024

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

Services

The workforce

Communities

Other (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All	<p>Positive impact - The benefits of Birkenhead Park becoming a World Heritage Site are potentially enormous for Wirral and its communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase in international awareness; - increase in community and civic pride; - growth of local visitor economy; - increase in inward investment and significant positive impact on local regeneration; - as well as the protection and improved management of this unique heritage asset for future generations. 		Matthew Humble / Rob Belcher	2024 - 2030	Achieving success in being recognised as a World Heritage Site will require use of existing resources, as well as a capital funding bid and additional revenue resource.
All	<p>Positive impact - The initiative will greatly strengthen the area's wider regeneration</p>		Matthew Humble / Rob	2024 - 2030	Achieving success in being

	strategy, enhancing the experience of all residents, workers, shoppers, and students, benefit local businesses, as well as supporting the ongoing investment of Wirral Growth Company and its partners in transforming the surrounding area.		Belcher		recognised as a World Heritage Site will require use of existing resources, as well as a capital funding bid and additional revenue resource.
All	Positive impact – Engaging the wide range of stakeholders (visitors, local people, interest groups, and wider stakeholders) with an interest in Birkenhead Park and its potential World Heritage Site recognition is an essential element of the overall initiative presented here. This participative approach will form the basis for enabling stakeholders to have a role in decision-making on aspects of the park’s management and development.		Matthew Humble / Rob Belcher	2024-2030	A fixed term, full-time community engagement officer is proposed, over 4 financial years until 2027/28 to provide additional staff capacity.
All	Negative impact - appropriate community engagement and communication could be an issue for those with disabilities.	Officers will ensure that Communications colleagues are fully engaged throughout to provide advice on ensuring that all engagement and communications are timely, accurate and fully appropriate to the needs of our communities.	Matthew Humble / Rob Belcher	2024-30	Achieving success in being recognised as a World Heritage Site will require use of existing resources, as well as a capital funding bid and additional revenue

		<p>Where buildings and meeting places are used for engagement events, we will ensure that venues are as accessible as possible.</p> <p>We will produce consultation documents in appropriate formats, within a reasonable timeframe To limit the chances of exclusion</p>			resource.
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

A project team with the Parks & Countryside Service is in place to oversee the day-to-day development and management of the World Heritage project. The EIA actions will be monitored as part of that team's role, and reported to Birkenhead Park's Management Advisory Committee, which is made up of Elected Members and representatives of the Friends of Birkenhead Park.

Any changes in equality impact will be recorded and reviewed.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Birkenhead Park's World Heritage initiative aims to bring net positive impacts to the borough in the immediate and longer terms. Any negative effects from the strategy that arise will be addressed throughout its implementation.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

A great deal of research has been undertaken on the heritage significance of the Park, along with its historic development and present condition. This has contributed to the development of the project to date and to its success on Birkenhead Park being included on the UK Government's Tentative List in 2023.

Some work has been undertaken to obtain information on visitors to the Park but much more will be done to enable a greater and comprehensive understanding (i.e. numbers of visitors and demographics, where they travel from, when they visit, how they enjoy the Park, how long they stay, what they like or don't like, etc.) A comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme will commence and be established during the preparation of the UNESCO nomination submission.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

Engaging the wide range of stakeholders with an interest in Birkenhead Park and its potential World Heritage Site recognition is an essential element of the overall initiative presented here. Consequently, a fixed term, full-time community engagement officer is proposed, over 4 financial years until 2027/28 to provide additional staff capacity.

A comprehensive programme of 'engagement' with visitors, local people, interest groups, and wider stakeholders will be developed to gain a thorough understanding of park use, views, and perceptions. This participative approach will form the basis for enabling stakeholders to have a role in decision-making on aspects of the park's management and development.

The long-established community group, the Friends of Birkenhead Park, is working extremely closely with the Council in our aspirations for the park and is fully supportive.

Community consultation exercises which have been undertaken by the park's team in recent years have received overwhelming support and enthusiasm for the park potentially becoming a World Heritage Site.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**