

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<p>Name of policy, function or service</p> <p>Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership</p>
<p>Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service</p> <p>To create a three-year post for the FHN project officer, employed by Edinburgh and the Lothians Greenspace Trust, that would be responsible for developing a Forestry Framework for the Region in partnership with the 4 local authorities, relevant governmental agencies and other interested groups.</p> <p>Early work would involve the development of the Forest Habitat Network concept as well as greenspace and access strategies already under development. The project officer would be responsible for facilitating co-ordinated WIAT projects and RDC applications.</p> <p>The project officer will be responsible for engaging with interested communities and groups, and promoting value-added health, education and social inclusion benefits.</p>
<p>Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?</p> <p>Partners of the ELFHNP (established in 2007) will have the opportunity to input in the development of the Forestry Framework and in the identification of priority areas for the delivery of the FHN.</p> <p>Land owners and managers will have access to funding under the RDC as the creation of the FHN in Edinburgh and Lothians was identified within the Regional priorities for Forth.</p> <p>Local Authorities and non-governmental organisations will have the opportunity to access funding streams under WIAT, Forestry for People and others with support and advice from the project officer.</p> <p>Development Control staff within Local Authorities will have the opportunity to incorporate the FHN concept in the CDAs masterplanning process.</p>
<p>Information and Data (evidence) used</p> <p>The policy is not centred on customer service or staff conditions, and all groups will be equally affected by the outcomes and recommendations in the Forestry Framework.</p> <p>The recruitment of the project officer in May 2008 was led by Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust and adhered to current legislation, including the Equality Act 2006.</p>
<p>Summary of Impact</p> <p>It will raise awareness amongst Local Authority staff, landowners, land managers and developers about the opportunities to deliver green infrastructures and their benefits;</p>

It will promote the contribution of trees, woodland and green infrastructure to environment, biodiversity, landscape and recreation;

Monitoring/Evaluation

As part of the Job Plan of the project manager there is the need to develop a monitoring programme to record progress over the next three years. Monitoring will include:

- landowners and land managers engagement
- local authority engagement
- community group engagement
- woodland management and creation targets
- initiatives generated and supported within the Lothians

WIAT monitoring is embedded within the national WIAT Policy (lead by National Office).

Further Information

Available from Central Scotland Conservancy.