

The EqIA Publishing Template

Impact Assessment Summary
1. Name of policy, function or service. Insert the name of the policy, process or service. Include information about whether this is a Partial or a Full Impact Assessment.
London Regional Business plan covering the financial year 2010/11. Partial Assessment
2. Purpose and aims of the policy, function or service. 3. Insert a brief outline of the purpose of the policy, process or service and provide outline details of main aim(s).
The purpose of this plan is to show how FC resources will be directed across the Region and what financial targets and regional outcomes are expected to be achieved during the year.
4. Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service? Outline briefly who the policy, process or service is aimed at, for example, customers, and staff and identify any specific groups where appropriate.
The main beneficiaries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Greater London Authority including the London Development Agency and Transport for London - benefit through enhanced tree and woodland programmes• The 32 London Boroughs - benefit through a direct link to the London Framework• London NGO's - As above (and through the FC London grant schemes)• Environmental charities - As above• Local and communities groups involved in tree and woodland care - Through FC grant schemes• The resident's and businesses within London - through FC grant schemes
5. Information and Data (evidence) used. Include information of evidence collected to undertake the impact assessment. This can be a summary of information or a comprehensive list. Include information on any consultations undertaken and the associated findings.
A considerable amount of evidence (available from the Regional Director as a breakdown of all schemes grant aided over the last 4 years and their environmental and social benefits) has been collated for the community grant scheme. This will help to assess the direct and tangible outcomes (e.g. no. of volunteers involved, no. of schools targeted etc). There are less data on direct beneficiaries beyond anecdotal on issues of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or age. In the longer term this subject should be researched.
6. Summary of Impact.

Provide a summary of the impact both negative and positive and outline of any remedial action or justifications for impact.

Provide information about any modifications made to the policy, process or service as a result of the assessment and/or consultation, or alternative or additional measures.

There is considerable evidence (much of it from the US) that urban vegetation and its management can significantly influence human health and environmental quality in and around cities. Equally, improving access and understanding of woodlands and increasing street tree cover either on pavements or adjacent to new development can have a significant impact on the quality of urban living. This is of generic interest, in that all residents will benefit, but in particular the elderly and those of already lower health. As we develop new and targeted schemes we intend to get more detail and have been discussing this with Forest Research to use some of the FC London programmes as a pilot for measuring the benefits of green urban infrastructure. There is also an intention to work more closely with community and Friends groups who have the influence to encourage improvements at a local level.

7. Monitoring or Evaluation.

Provide a brief summary of how the policy, function or service will be monitored and evaluated in terms of equality.

We will continue to gather information in relation to environmental and social benefits about the success of the grant aided schemes and the results will be used to inform and refine the decision making of future business plans.

8. Further Information.

Insert contact details of the individual who can supply additional information and a copy of the completed Equality Impact Assessment.

Ron Melville Regional Director London

Tel: 020 7217 3125 or 079 0151 8720 email: ron.melville@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

1.1 Further help and support

The Diversity Team is able to give you advice about whether your policy, function or service requires an EqIA and can guide you through the completion of the EqIA Forms. You will find useful information on their Intranet site and a copy of all EqIAs that have been published to date by the Forestry Commission.

1.2 Existing Policies, functions and services that have not been subject to EqIA.

England, Wales, Scotland, Silvan House Divisions, Business Units and Forest Research are prioritising existing policies, functions and services and will complete EqIAs on those according to their agreed programme.