

Equality Analysis (EA)

Section 1 – General Information

Bartlett Park Landscape Improvement Plan

Bartlett Park is a key piece of large open space in Poplar, spanning both Limehouse and East India & Lansbury wards. Whilst the park is well used for football league games, containing two full size football pitches, the park caters little for other types of users due to combination of lack of facilities, fractured layout and poor accessibility.

It is the single largest piece of green open space within the local area, serving many residents in the Limehouse and East India & Lansbury wards. Recently there have been numerous large scale new housing developments around the locality (including the New Festival Quarter), increasing the population density and therefore the pressure on open space.

The drive for improving Bartlett Park also derives from the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF seeks to improve the quality, usability, and accessibility of existing publicly accessible open spaces across the borough. The evidence base for the LDF was informed by a qualitative and quantitative assessment of all open spaces in the borough; this assessment rated Bartlett Park as a 'poor' quality open space and identified it as a priority for improvement.

The Bartlett Park Landscape Improvement Plan was commissioned to identify and propose intervention and improvement works to improve and enhance the quality, accessibility and facilities available in the park. The improvement plan proposes a number of improvements to the park and to surrounding road network including:

- Realigning and re-landscaping a section of Upper North Street, including installing traffic calming measures to improve general safety, accessibility and connectivity between the main park and the adventure playground.
- Relocating the existing football pitches in order to free up areas within the park for other facilities
- Providing purpose built changing rooms.
- Closing Cottall St to vehicular traffic and extending the park northwards and improve connectivity with Limehouse Cut canal and create a waterside area.
- Replacing existing fencing around the perimeter of the park with a mixed boundary consisting of unobtrusive walls and fencing.
- Creating a new 'celebratory' entrance at the south east corner of the park with additional secondary entrances.
- Creating new footways and cycle paths within the park.
- Creating a new play area for young children at the northern section of the park.
- Re-landscaping the park with new seating, tree and shrubbery planting.
- Creating a fenced-in 'dog-walking' area within the park
- Providing an outdoor exercise area with gym equipment

Who is expected to benefit from the proposal?

The improvements to the park will benefit all different types of users of the park as well as those living in and around the park.

Service area:
Strategy & Programmes

Team name:
Strategy & Resources

Service manager:
Thorsten Dreyer

Name and role of the officer completing the EA:
Mifta Ahmed – Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer

Section 2 - Evidence

What initial evidence do we have which may help us think about the impacts or likely impacts on service users or staff?

Bartlett Park Consultation Summary Report
Tower Hamlets Open Space Strategy

Section 3 – Impacts

How will what you're proposing impact upon the nine protected characteristics?

For the nine protected characteristics detailed in the table below please consider:-

- **What is the equality profile of service users or beneficiaries that will or are likely to be affected?**
- **What qualitative or quantitative data do we have?**
- **Equalities profile of staff?**
- **Barriers?**
- **Recent consultation exercises carried out?**
- **Additional factors which may influence disproportionate or adverse impact?**
- **The Process of Service Delivery?**

Please also consider how the proposal will impact upon the 3 One Tower Hamlets objectives:-

- Reduce inequalities
- Ensure strong community cohesion
- Strengthen community leadership.

Please Note -

Reports/stats/data can be added as Appendix – Please send any reports/consultation findings/data and stats to the One Tower Hamlets team

Target Groups	Impact – Positive or Adverse	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, • Please describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform decision making
Race	Positive	<p>Feedback received during public consultation (for more information, see Bartlett Park Consultation Summary Report) showed significant support for the creation of a fenced off dog walking area to help address the fear of dogs amongst both children and adults within certain, particularly the Bangladeshi, communities.</p>
Disability	Positive	<p>Accessibility Feedback in the Bartlett Park Consultation Summary Report identifies accessibility as a key feature people would like to see improved within the park and one that would encourage more people to use the park. Increasing accessibility is also identified in the London Plan, which requires local authorities to ensure residents have access to a local park within 400m of their front door.</p> <p>Opening up the park and creating new access points into the park will ensure a greater number of people in the surrounding area fall within the 400m catchment area. This will also significantly benefit disable park users by reducing the distance of travel required to access the park.</p> <p>Entrance Whilst there are a number of existing step free entrances to the park, these are poorly located and do not relate well with surrounding pedestrian routes and natural access points and can increase the distance people have to travel to access the park. The entrances are also obscure and difficult to identify resulting, at times, in having to walk around the perimeter of the park to locate an entrance. The impact of this is significantly greater on disabled park users than able bodied users.</p> <p>New proposed entrances have been designed to be easily identifiable and will be located in prominent, natural entry points that tie in with the surrounding pedestrian routes and desire lines. Entrances have also been designed to ensure they provide step free entrance to the park and are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs.</p> <p>Footpath As with entrances, existing footpaths are poorly laid out, limited and to a certain extent dictated by the orientation of football pitches, bearing little to no relation to natural desire lines. This not only restricts access by wheelchair to a large portion of the park, but also requires having to travel greater distance to reach the desired location. The creation of new paths and improvements to the existing path network</p>

		<p>will increase the coverage of the park by footpath, meaning that a greater portion of the park is accessible by wheelchair. Creating footpaths along desire lines will facilitate easy navigation within the park without having to take detours.</p> <p>Extending the park New proposals include extending the park northwards to meet with the canal. As part of the proposal step free access will be provided from the park to the canal towpath opening up access to disabled and wheelchair users.</p> <p>Seating Formal seating, some incorporating armrests to facilitate use by disabled and less mobile users, will be provided across the park. Informal seating will also be provided by the low level boundary walls around the perimeter of the park and by the steps leading down to the canal towpath.</p> <p>Children's play area Children's play areas have been designed to ensure they accommodate and cater for disabled children and those in wheelchairs.</p> <p>Paths into and around the play areas will be wide enough accommodate wheelchairs and with ramped access to the children's slide and viewing point. Access path will be no greater than a 1:20 gradient to ensure that the whole space is inclusive. The play area will be surfaced with coloured wet pour, to allow wheelchair access.</p> <p>Swings provided in the play area will provide supported seats with a back rest to ensure it can be used by disabled children.</p>
Gender	Positive	<p>Lighting Muted lighting will be provided along the pathways, which will provide greater visibility and security for women moving through the park in the evenings.</p>
Gender Reassignment	Positive	<p>Safety Anecdotal evidence suggests that people who have undergone or are currently undergoing gender reassignment feel less safe in parks and open spaces in general.</p> <p>The improvement plan seeks to improve overall safety and security in the park through various approaches, key ones being by increasing activity in and usage of the park, opening up the park and improving lighting within the park. Combined, these improvements will increase safety and security in the park during the day and in the evening.</p>

Sexual Orientation	Positive	<p>Safety As with people who have undergone or are currently undergoing gender reassignment, anecdotal evidence also suggests that people from the LGBT communities feel less safe in parks and open spaces.</p> <p>Once again increasing activity in and usage of the park, opening up the park and improving lighting within the park will increase safety and security in during the day and in the evening</p> <p>There is no adverse impact to this target group.</p>
Religion or Belief	n/a	
Age	Positive	<p>Activities Proposed improvements to the existing facilities and introduction of new facilities in the park have been proposed and designed to ensure the park caters for a range of age groups. This includes providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play space for younger children (0-5years) in addition to the existing older children's adventure playground. This was identified in the Consultation Summary Report as something that would make people use the park more often and increase their enjoyment of it. • Different informal and formal seating and relaxing areas design to appeal to different age groups. • A community garden/growing area for the older age groups. <p>Legibility Improvement to legibility and wayfinding to and within the park and the creation of new entrances and pathways will also benefit the younger and older age groups by making it easier for them to find their way around the park.</p> <p>There is no adverse impact to this target group.</p>
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	n/a	
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	<p>Accessibility Evidence suggests that parents and carers with young children, particularly those with push chairs, find it difficult to access certain parks, open spaces and play areas due to poor accessibility.</p> <p>The proposals to improve accessibility for disabled and wheelchair users will also improve accessibility for parents and carers with pushchairs.</p> <p>There is no adverse impact to this target group.</p>
Other Socio-economic Carers	n/a	

Section 4 – Mitigation and Improvement Action Plan

From the analysis and interpretation of evidence in section 2 and 3 - Is there any evidence of or view that suggests that different equality or other target groups (inc' staff) could have a disproportionately high/low take up of the new proposal?

Yes?

No?

If yes, please detail below how evidence influenced and formed the proposal? For example, why things were added/removed?

(Please note – a key part of the EA process is to show that we have made reasonable and informed attempts to mitigate any negative impacts. AN EA is a service improvement tool and as such you may wish to consider a number of alternative options or mitigation in terms of the proposal.)

The improvement plan has been produced with potential negative impacts in mind, and these have already been mitigated through the development and consultation phases. The implementation of the improvement plan is not likely to result in a negative impact on any target groups.

Action Plan

As a result of these conclusions and recommendations what actions (if any) will be included in your business planning and wider review processes (team plan)? Please consider any gaps or areas needing further attention in the table below the example.

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Progress
Directly engage with disability groups / LGBT groups in the borough.	Invite groups to drop in sessions and stakeholder workshops during the detailed design stages.	Start consultation process in late 2013/early 2014.	MA	N/A

Section 5 – Quality Assurance and Monitoring

Have monitoring systems been put in place to check the implementation of the proposal and recommendations?

Yes? No? X

How will the monitoring systems further assess the impact on the equality target groups?

Monitoring systems will be devised and implemented for the phased delivery, once agreed, of individual elements of the improvement plan.

Does the policy/function comply with equalities legislation?
(Please consider the OTH objectives and Public Sector Equality Duty criteria)

Yes? X No?

If there are gaps in information or areas for further improvement, please list them below:

How will the results of this Equality Analysis feed into the performance planning process?

This Equality Analysis does not identify further strands of work that need to be undertaken or reviewed for purposes of the performance planning process.

Section 6 – Sign Off and Publication

Name: (signed off by)	EDMUND WILDISH
Position:	SENIOR STRATEGY, POLICY + PERFORMANCE OFFICER
Date signed off: (approved)	31/07/13