

## Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

<b>Area for Assessment:</b>	
<b>Name of service or function etc</b>	Parks and Play Areas
<b>Which Service does this affect?</b>	Transport, Highways and Environment
<b>Is this a new, existing or revised function?</b>	Existing
<b>Summary of findings:</b>	
<b>Main conclusions on the likely impact of the proposed savings on different equality groups (protected characteristics):</b>	
<p>The design of a high quality environment is vital to support a range of priority issues such as better health and education, crime reduction and improvements in community cohesion and social cohesion.</p> <p>Parks provide a valuable and important community facility; offering free open access and enabling informal interaction between people of different backgrounds and age groups, as well as providing a free facility for physical activity, which contributes to various health objectives. Consultation has shown that usage of parks is high across all groups. All groups appear to place a high importance on parks, although in relation to other public services the level of importance does differ. Satisfaction is high across all groups, although there are some notable variations for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and geographical communities, reasons for this are not yet fully understood.</p> <p>Overall, amenities are aimed at all age groups, but users and non-users would like more targeted provision for teenagers and adults. A lack of some specific facilities, such as toilets, provides an obvious barrier to certain groups of people being able to use parks. However, in light of previous maintenance and anti-social behaviour concerns, as well as diminishing budgets it is not feasible to introduce toilets across our parks, instead we will look to increase partnerships where nearby facilities can be used by our park visitors.</p> <p>A lot of work has taken place to improve accessibility and security, and to reduce dog fouling/littering. This has included, for example, installing seating/resting points, introducing accessible parking bays, resurfacing and widening paths, improving/increasing signage, introducing a Parkmobility Scheme enabling those with mobility problems to borrow wheelchairs for use in parks, working in partnership to review vandalism/security concerns, and increasing informal surveillance. Through inspection and maintenance arrangements we are able to address any areas of concern as and when they arise.</p> <p>Play areas are highly valued by all sectors of the community, and provide the main reason for overall visits to parks. Significant investment has taken place across the borough, with a focus on the north, to improve and upgrade play areas and youth facilities. There has been a strong focus on inclusive play and consultation has been undertaken widely on a site-by-site basis to ensure children and young people have been able to influence the content and design of their play areas. Targeted consultation has also taken place with disabled children and young people to ensure that developments meet their specific needs.</p> <p>Although many positive impacts have been identified there is still a lot of work that needs to take place. Access audits on each of our 18 principal parks will go a long way in informing priorities on a site-by-site basis. Some reasons for non-usage and/or desired improvements in parks are understood for different community groups, but additional analysis and consultation needs to take place to fully inform our improvements.</p>	

<b>Actions</b>		
<b>Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Review equalities monitoring guidance when next survey is developed	Monitoring meets corporate requirements in line with the Equalities Act	October 2012
Carry out further analysis of 2011 Parks User Survey to understand reasons for use/non-use by different groups of people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased understanding of the needs of different groups of people</li> <li>• Understanding used to inform improvements work</li> </ul>	May 2011
Increase provision of parks, play areas and open spaces as outlined in Green Spaces Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional provision in specific areas of borough</li> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	ongoing
Introduce further inclusive play areas and youth facilities, including a focus on positive provision for girls (ensuring that initiatives to reduce vandalism and misuse of sites are developed alongside this) and promote their availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional provision for children and young people (on a one site per year basis)</li> <li>• Reduced misuse of play equipment</li> <li>• Increased satisfaction with parks and open spaces</li> </ul>	ongoing
Carry out further consultation to understand what facilities and activities are wanted for adults and older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional provision for adults</li> <li>• Increased satisfaction with parks and open spaces</li> </ul>	ongoing
Look to increase partnerships to provide access to toilets, baby changing areas, and changing facilities at key parks across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased satisfaction with parks and open spaces</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	ongoing
Investigate the feasibility of introducing/upgrading accessible parking bays at Elmdon Park, and Lanchester Park; and ensure correct information about car parks in parks is publicised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	April 2012
Arrange access audits for 18 principal parks and develop action plan based on the findings; including consideration of additional seating/ resting points/ handrails, improving signage, bridges/crossing points, barriers and gates, and entrance presentation etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	
Program improvements to drainage/maintenance of footpaths update information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	Ongoing (quarterly inspections)

on website once improvements carried out		
Review accessibility of Babbs Mill Park Improvement Plan with disabled people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements meet needs of users</li> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	March 2012
Investigate introducing similar measures in other parks across the borough		Ongoing
Investigate alternative methods of improving sense of safety and security across our parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved sense of safety across our parks</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Ensure new areas of permanent planting are designed to enhance sensory experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Increase accessibility of fishing landings, viewing points and pond dipping facilities at all sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Promote Parkmobility through appropriate avenues such as Enable, Solihull council's website, Shopmobility, Your Solihull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	September 2011
Publish park access information in the Solihull Parks What's On Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	December 2011
Promote positive stories/imagery of young people using parks for legitimate reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative perceptions of young people are challenged</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Carry out targeted consultation with Black, Asian and minority ethnic residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding barriers affecting usage and specific improvements required</li> </ul>	March 2012
Investigate potential of introducing a <i>Park Buddy</i> scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved accessibility</li> <li>• Needs of users are met</li> <li>• Increased usage of parks</li> </ul>	March 2013
<b>Date Assessment Signed Off</b>	April 2011	