

Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment: Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Impact Assessment Id: #580

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1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Name of Project Sponsor

Emily Barker

Name of Project Manager

Cody Levine

Name of Project Lead

Cody Levine

Please give a brief description of the project

LNRS are a statutory requirement from the Environment Act requiring the Secretary of State to appoint Responsible Authorities (WCC in the case of Worcestershire) to collaborate with the public and Supporting Authorities in production of a spatial plan for nature's recovery, establishing local priorities and locations for conservation and enhancement action which will also help deliver wider environmental benefits.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

LNRS are a statutory requirement from the Environment Act requiring the Secretary of State to appoint Responsible Authorities (WCC in the case of Worcestershire) to collaborate with the public and Supporting Authorities in production of a spatial plan for nature's recovery, establishing local priorities and locations for conservation and enhancement action which will also help deliver wider environmental benefits.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

Public consultation on a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities and Local Habitat Map setting out how and where Worcestershire will achieve nature's recovery

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The LNRS, once adopted, will help influence land-use decision making, for example helping spatially focus Biodiversity Net Gain offsets and Environmental Stewardships.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

New

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Economy & Infrastructure

Service Area

Major Projects & Waste

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

LNRS

Intended Project Close Date *

March 2025

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Cody Levine
Job title	Team Leader (Ecology)
Email address	clevine@worcestershire.gov.uk

3.0 Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Communities

3.1 Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

to be confirmed on receipt of consultation responses once permission to consult is obtained from WCC Cabinet, for which, a completed JIA is required.

3.2 Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

As part of the strategy's development we intend to seek WCC permission to undertake an initial 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation, to be followed by a public consultation on a 'draft LNRS' once consultation responses can be analyzed and integrated into the emerging strategy. Consultation work is provisionally scheduled in Q1 and Q4 2024.

3.3 Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

to be confirmed

4 Protected characteristics - Equality

Please consider the potential impact of this activity (during development & implementation) on each of the equality groups outlined below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded. Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all age groups. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including all age groups. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of age, as per our statutory duties.

Disability

Potential positive impact selected. Potential neutral impact selected. Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from disabled residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including from those who are disabled, those who are impacted directly or indirectly. The consultation survey and any relevant documentation will be available in a number of accessible formats, allowing engagement from those who use a screen reader, those who use 'easy read', and at public consultation sessions, a BSL translator can be requested. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of disability as per our statutory duties. Potential positive and negative impact based on our successful or accessible engagement during consultation – unknown until consultation completion, but measures will be in place to mitigate any negative impacts faced due to disability.

Gender reassignment

Potential neutral impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including individuals or groups who have transitioned, who are planning to transition, who are transitioning, and those who are not.

We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of gender reassignment, as per our statutory duties.

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

neutral no impact known with regards to this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential positive impact selected. Potential neutral impact selected. Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including those who have given birth within the last 6 months, and those who are pregnant. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of pregnancy and maternity, as per our statutory duties. Potential positive and negative impact based on our successful or accessible engagement during consultation – unknown until consultation completion, but measures will be in place to mitigate any negative impacts faced due to pregnancy or maternity status (eg access to physical spaces where meetings may be held re consultation).

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of race, as per our statutory duties.

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including individuals or groups who practice or belong to a specific religious group, as well and those who don't. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of religion and belief, as per our statutory duties.

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including individuals or groups of all sexes. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of sex, as per our statutory duties.

Sexual orientation

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The consultation will actively encourage participation from all residents and community members. Various methods of consultation and engagement will ensure we receive feedback from a broad range of demographics, including individuals or groups who have, share or do not share specific sexual orientations. We will aim to ask and capture demographic data information for the purpose of supporting our due regard to the protected characteristic of sexual orientation, as per our statutory duties.

5 Characteristics - Public Health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including any vulnerable or disadvantaged group. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

Health inequalities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including any group suffering from health inequalities. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along

with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

Social and economic

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including any socially or economically disadvantaged group. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

Physical health

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including any group suffering from physical health complaints. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including those suffering due to mental health or wellbeing matters. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

Access to services

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The element of the project which is being proposed to Cabinet in 2024 is an 'LNRS Issues and Options' public consultation. The outcomes of this consultation will inform development of our future LNRS. The Issues and Options consultation will not result in outputs which produce a tangible change or direct or indirect effect on our residents, communities or businesses, including modifying access to public services. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently in preparation, and will comply with guidance recently produced by Government and DEFRA. The Issues and Options consultation will capture some stakeholder's personal information, including personal data such as age and location. Along with the stakeholder engagement plan, this data will allow us to evaluate how well WCC is reaching groups defined by DEFRA as 'harder to reach'.

6 **Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts**

You have confirmed that there are no negative impacts for equality protected characteristics and public health characteristics.

7

When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?s

A Equality assessment has been commissioned to support the LNRS Issues and Options Stage public consultation and will be reviewed as the strategy progresses towards development of a full and final iteration for adoption and submission to the Secretary of State.

8 **Declaration**

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- **All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation**
- **Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that**

meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others

- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.

8 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

20/10/2023 16:23:47

Screening Submitted Date Time

14/08/2023 14:44:00

Last Reopened Date Time

19/10/2023 13:29:47

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

20/10/2023 16:23:47

Approved/Rejected Date Time

No Date Recorded

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Submitted

9.0 People with access to the original screening

[Cody Levine \(CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Natasha Friend \(NFriend@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:NFriend@worcestershire.gov.uk)

9.1

People with access to this equality and public health assessment

10 Direct Questions

Question:

Hi Cody

Please could you provide more detail around how different characteristics benefit or dont benefit from this project ie:

Will it have an impact on vulnerable and disadvantaged people? If not state no, if you feel it has a positive impact then please describe ie does the project provide better access to services for people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged which may have a positive impacts on their health and wellbeing.

Will the project provide social and economic opportunities ie For example would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, good employment opportunities, green space or climate change? It may have a positive impact?

Physical health: Does the project provide opportunity for people to improve physical health and if so how?

Mental Health and wellbeing: Does the project provide opportunity for people to improve mental health and wellbeing and if if so how?

Asked by Victoria Moulston (VMoulston@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 18/08/2023 10:52:39
Cody Levine (CLevine@worcestershire.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

Hi Victoria

At this stage of the project we're developing an initial 'Issues and Options' public consultation to brief the public/residents/businesses/organisations on our development proposals for a future LNRS; we'll propose outline document contents including Worcestershire's biodiversity priorities and principles which will be underpinned by an evidence base which we'll also share.

In order to undertake a public consultation this coming winter we're preparing a paper for November's Cabinet and were rightly prompted to complete a JIA as part of that process. However, we don't envisage our Issues and Options consultation to selectively disadvantage any group with protected characteristics; It should provide an opportunity to give voice to everyone who wants to collaborate and contribute in the development of a 'full' LNRS next summer.

We recognise existing socio-economic inequalities in accessing natural green space, and aspire for the LNRS to provide opportunities for all (including groups with protected characteristics) to find more and better opportunities to access Worcestershire's natural environment, with subsequent health and metal wellbeing benefits. But this work will

begin it's development next year, and will be informed by our Issues and Options consultation responses.

I hope that helps but please do let me know if you need any further clarification or have any additional questions.

Many thanks

Cody

Cody Levine (CLevine@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 21/08/2023 12:06:23

Response:

Hi Cody

I have reopened the assessment so you can update the PH aspect of the HIA . If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me

BW

Vicki

Victoria Moulston (VMoulston@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 29/08/2023 11:45:50

Response:

Updated text under Public Health and Equalities sections as advised.

Thanks

Cody

Cody Levine (CLevine@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 25/10/2023 14:12:05

[Add Response](#)

11 Sign off

Public Health sign off

This assessment was signed off at 27/10/2023 11:10:00 by Sarah Lawlor

Equality sign off

This assessment was signed off at 25/10/2023 15:02:37 by Maddy Cameron

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