

Community Impact Assessment

Name of Proposal:

Countryside Estate – New Vision 2022

Project Sponsor:

Janene Cox, Assistant Director – Culture, Rural and Safer Communities

Project Manager:

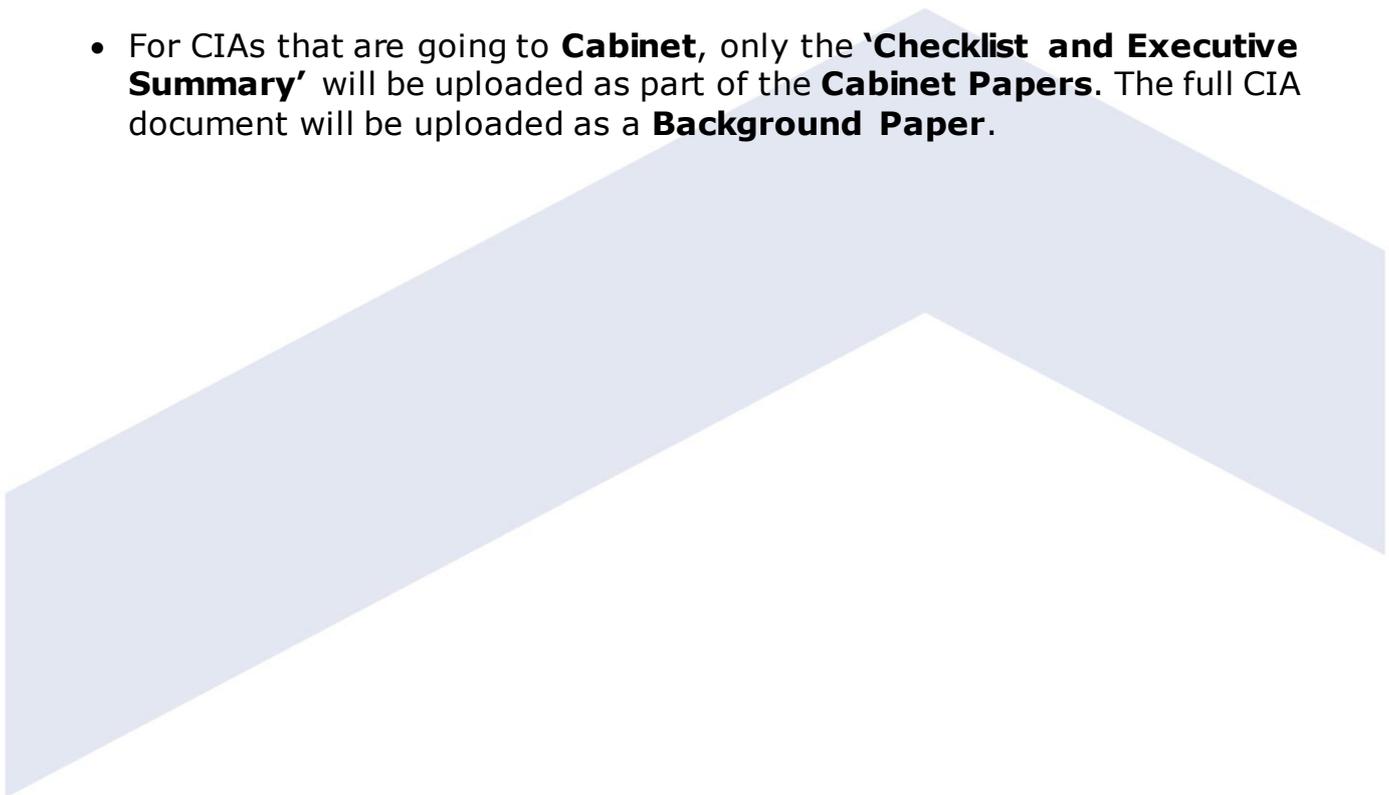
Sarah Bentley, Head of Environment & Countryside

Date Completed:

24/01/22



Completing a CIA

- A CIA will help you to identify the potential **impacts, risks and benefits** of your proposed policy, service or project. Doing this at an early stage enables engagement and research to be undertaken to identify actions that will either **lessen the risk** or **maximise the benefits**. The assessment will also help you to identify mitigating factors whereby risks may be balanced out to an extent by the benefits.
 - This template should be used to support the development of a proposal during the **planning stage**, therefore supporting the council's approach of [Achieving Commissioning Excellence](#).
 - A good CIA will involve input from more than one person. A **Project Team** should be identified with different, but relevant expertise to ensure that a full range of views are considered.
 - **Engagement and/or consultation** should take place with appropriate and representative groups of people that are most likely to be affected. This must then be used to help shape the design/outcomes of the project. Please note that due to the publication of CIAs, it is advisable not to record personal details of members of the public, such as names or addresses.
 - **Once completed**, the main findings from your CIA should be transferred to the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' template. Then both documents need to be approved/signed off by the appropriate people. Depending on the size of your project, this could be your manager, project lead, sponsor or SLT.
 - For CIAs that are going to **Cabinet**, only the '**Checklist and Executive Summary**' will be uploaded as part of the **Cabinet Papers**. The full CIA document will be uploaded as a **Background Paper**.
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Completing the CIA Template

This table describes what is required when completing the key sections of your assessment.

Which groups will be affected	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>Which groups of people will be impacted by the proposed policy, service or project? This could be people in a particular area, a street, or a group of people with similar characteristics e.g. older people, young people or people with care needs. Also consider staff, residents and other external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Think about the impact the proposal may have on each of the different category areas and identify the benefits of each decision.</p>	<p>Think about the impact the proposal may have on each of the different category areas, and identify the risks associated with the proposal.</p>	<p>Set out any recommendations as to how the benefits will be maximised and the risks minimised.</p> <p>Also highlight any trade-offs that may occur.</p>
<p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts should not be included if it is considered highly unlikely that they would occur. • Where no major impacts have been identified, please state N/A. • Due to the publication of CIAs, it is advisable not to record personal details of members of the public, such as names or addresses. 			
<p>Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact) How certain are you about the assessment of each potential impact, and what evidence have you used to arrive at the decision? E.g. Data – population trends data, census data, service data. Research – national, regional, local research. Engagement/ Consultation – with partners, the public, the voluntary sector.</p>			

Use the following template to highlight the impacts of your proposal on each of the following categories: The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), Health and Care, the Economy, the Environment, and Localities/ Communities.

Community Impact Assessment

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

Use this section to identify if the proposal will impact on our legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 for both residents and staff. In summary, those subject to the general equality duty must have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity between different groups and foster good relations between different groups.

Please consider:

- Who is currently using the service, across the protected characteristics?
- What do we know about their experiences and outcomes?
- What relevant information is available from the Census and population trends data?
- What were the findings of the engagement/consultation?
- Is there any relevant national, regional and/or local sources of research/evidence available?
- Is there any relevant information from partners or voluntary, community, social enterprise organisations?
- What is the analysis of the impact on those with relevant protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristics :	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Race Disability Sex Age Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Sexual Orientation Pregnancy and Maternity Marriage and Civil Partnership	As a universal service, all protected groups may use the countryside estate. We do not have specific data. However numerous studies have found that people with some protected characteristics are under-represented as users of the countryside due to a range of barriers, including physical and	Under the revised proposal, resource would be focused on frontline delivery and improving facilities rather than management arrangements. This would enable more rapid delivery of improvements and investment in the sites that would address the barriers to use by some protected groups.	Financial pressures on Council budgets could impact on service delivery in future due to retaining the estate mainly in house. However current MTFS commitments have been delivered.	The proposal includes measures to increase the long-term financial sustainability of the estate to address the potential financial risks The focus the proposal gives on delivery rather than further transformation would deliver benefits more rapidly to site users.
The duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination also covers marriage and civil partnerships in relation to employment issues.				

Protected Characteristics :	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
	cultural barriers, safety concerns and availability of facilities.			
<p>Impact on SCC Staff</p> <p>If the proposal affects SCC staff, consider the workforce profile compared against the protected characteristics pre and post change, the impact of job losses, available support for staff, and HR protocols.</p>	Staff within the Countryside Service with responsibility for the sites.	Under this proposal, the uncertainties regarding job security which have been ongoing since 2013/14 would come to an end. This would be a huge benefit to staff following the impacts of both the uncertainty of change processes but also the impacts of service delivery during COVID. This would support staff health and wellbeing. It also reduces the risk of staff leaving and absence which would be high if further change processes were to be required.	n/a	n/a
Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)				

Protected Characteristics :	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
<p>The Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) report 2018-19 shows that there are “larger proportions of infrequent visitors in the oldest age groups, lower socio-economic groups and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds”</p> <p>The MENE Children’s report 2018-19 also found disparities in the numbers of children spending time outside between more affluent / deprived areas, and that children from BAME backgrounds were less likely to spend time outdoors.</p> <p>Due to ongoing selection processes under the staff review, specific data for staff cannot be provided at this time.</p>				

Health and Care

Use this section to determine how the proposal will impact on resident’s health and wellbeing, and whether the proposal will impact on the demands for, or access to health and care services. Please consider the Care Act 2014 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
Mental Health and Wellbeing Will the proposal impact on the mental health and wellbeing of residents or services that support those with Mental Health issues?	Residents and visitors	Proposed model includes focus on opportunities to support health and wellbeing through improved access to green space and offering targeted activities / offers	n/a	n/a
Healthy Lifestyles	As above	As above	As above	As above

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
Will the proposal promote independence and personal responsibility, helping people to make positive choices around physical activity, healthy food and nutrition, smoking, problematic alcohol and substance use, and sexual health?				
Accidents and Falls Prevention	As above	Earlier investment in site infrastructure would reduce risks on site	n/a	n/a
Does the proposal reduce or increase the risk of: falls in older people, childhood accidents, road accidents, or workplace accidents?				
Access to Social Care	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal enable people to access appropriate interventions at the right time?				
Independent Living	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on people's ability to live independently in their own home, with care and support from family, friends,				

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
and the community?				
Safeguarding	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal ensure effective safeguarding for the most vulnerable in our communities?				
<p>Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)</p> <p>Research has concluded that "green prescribing" by GPs and other medical professionals could be a valuable way of helping people maximise the benefits of spending more time outdoors. Green spaces are claimed to have therapeutic benefits, helping people recover from illnesses.</p> <p>Research carried out by 'Fields in Trust' calculated that country parks and green spaces across the UK provide people with over £34bn of health and wellbeing benefits. It states that they save the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits.</p> <p>The Houses of Parliament publication, 'Green Space and Health' (October 2016), sets out the following health-related facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of physical activity are higher in areas with more green space with people living near the greenest areas achieving the recommended amount of physical activity. • Those living closer to green space are more likely to use it, and more frequently. • People who live within 500 metres of accessible green space are 24% more likely to meet 30 minutes of exercise levels of physical activity. • A correlation has been observed between those living closest to greener areas and reduced levels of mortality, obesity and obesity-related illnesses. • Adults who move to greener areas have better mental wellbeing and sustained improvement in self-reported happiness, compared to those moving to less green areas. • Views of trees reduced the amount of moderate to strong analgesics needed by patients' post-surgery and the number of days in hospital. 				

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients and hospital staff report feeling happier and more relaxed after spending time in a garden or outdoor space, suggesting that hospitals could incorporate green spaces to improve the wellbeing of healthcare staff, and patients. Some indicators of psychological stress, including blood pressure and heart rate, are reduced in participants exposed to visual and auditory stimuli associated with nature. Engaging with nature benefits those living with conditions such as ADHD, depression and dementia, by improving cognitive functioning and reducing anxiety 		
<p>For further information, please see 'Green Space and Health', Houses of Parliament, October 2016. http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0538/POST-PN-0538.pdf</p>				

Economy

Use this section to determine how the proposal will impact on the economy of Staffordshire and the income of residents.

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
<p>Economic Growth</p> <p>Will the proposal promote the county as a "go to" location for business, and make it easy for businesses to start up, innovate and expand?</p>	General economy; businesses linked to countryside and hospitality sector; businesses local to the	Investment and improvement of the countryside estate improves the role it can take in underpinning Staffordshire's	Car parking charges may impact but are now commonplace at countryside sites.	The mitigations as outlined in the proposals – annual permits at reduced cost for regular users - would reduce any impact of car parking charges on the countryside estate.

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
	countryside estate	role as a visitor destination and great place to live / work, attracting inward investment.		
Poverty and Income	n/a Site users on low incomes	Free to use green spaces	Car park charges may be a deterrent for those with low incomes	Annual permit to reduce cost to regular users. Could explore whether a 6-month ticket would help affordability in addition to 12-month option; explore better walk / cycle links so local people can be less dependent on cars
Will the proposal have an impact on income? Will it reduce the gap between high and low earners?				
Workplace Health and Environments	Businesses generally. Also see section 'Impact on SCC Staff'	An improved countryside estate can support Staffordshire's workforce to be healthier and improve wellbeing.	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on working conditions and the health of Staffordshire's workforce?				
Access to jobs/ Good quality jobs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal create the right conditions for increased employment in more and better jobs?				
Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)				

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
<p>Green and natural spaces are fundamental to people's prosperity and contribute to a more successful economy. They underpin sustainable economic growth by attracting businesses and investment and can improve workforce productivity.</p>				
<p>Green spaces are more than just places for recreation or to help wildlife thrive – they also provide important functions to society which have an economic value. For example, woodlands absorb pollution and lock up carbon, which cleans our air and wetlands store water, reducing flows and help reduce the risk of flooding. These functions are known as 'ecosystem services' and they benefit society and help reduce costs on local and wider communities, such as to the NHS, other public-sector services and local businesses.</p>				
<p>A Staffordshire Ecosystem Assessment carried out in 2014 estimated monetary values for ecosystem services for a set of broad habitat types. Altogether, 956 km² of habitats were assessed which constituted just over 35% of the total geographical area of Staffordshire. Stating the best guess, the ecosystem services assessed have been valued at more than £110 million annually. If aggregated over 200 years, the value of ecosystem services performed in Staffordshire adds up to more than £7 billion (Hölzinger & Everard).</p>				
<p>Recent research carried out by the 'Fields in Trust' calculated that the Total Economic Value to an individual of country parks and green spaces is £30.24 per year (£2.52 per month), and includes benefits gained from using their local park or green space and non-use benefits such as the preservation of parks for future generations.</p>				
<p>The Economic Value of Our Green Spaces Report (February 2018) published by the Land Trust looked at one of its newest parks – Port Sunlight River Park – as a case study to demonstrate how the creation and good quality maintenance of a green space can add value to nearby houses, create and safeguard jobs and generate revenue for local businesses. The benefits include:</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £7.8 million added to the value of houses within a 500 metre radius of the park – an average of £8,674 per property. • £48,000 annual revenue generated for the small businesses that operate in the park, such as dog walkers and ice cream vendors. 				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £38,000 a year additional revenue for other local businesses, where people have spent money while visiting the park. <p>The Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership say in their Strategic Economic Plan (April 2018) that "our natural assets are of great importance locally and nationally and form a major part of our offer to investors."</p>				

Environment

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on the physical environment. How does the proposal support the utilisation and maintenance of Staffordshire's built and natural environments, thereby improving health and wellbeing and strengthening community assets?

Category Area	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)				
Built Environment/ Land Use	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on the built environment and land use?				
Rural Environment	SCC Countryside estate	The proposals would improve the environmental quality of the estate and access to it	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on the rural natural environment or on access to open spaces?				
Air, Water and Land Quality	SCC Countryside estate	Improved management would offer environmental benefits	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal affect air quality				

(e.g. vehicle, industrial or domestic emissions), drinking water quality or land quality (e.g. contamination)?				
Waste and Recycling	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal affect waste (e.g. disposal) and recycling?				
Agriculture and Food Production	n/a			
Will the proposal affect the production of healthy, affordable and culturally acceptable food?				
Transport	SCC Countryside estate	Improved physical access through better infrastructure		
Will the proposal affect the ability of people/ communities/ business to travel? Will the proposal impact on walking/ cycling opportunities?				
Noise	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal cause disruptive noise?				
Climate Change	SCC Countryside estate	Positive contribution to net zero and adaptation	n/a	n/a
Does this proposal have any Climate Change implications?				
Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 1970 and 2013 in the UK 56% of species declined and 15% are extinct or threatened with extinction (State of Nature 2016) • In the UK we have lost 80% of our heathland since 1800 – in Staffordshire probably more like 90% • 13% of heathland and grassland species are threatened with extinction in Great Britain (State of Nature 2016) 				

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Localities / Communities

Use this section to identify the impact of the proposal on communities. How will the proposal strengthen community capacity to create safer and stronger communities? It is important to recognise the different localities and communities your proposal may impact upon and identify any communities that could be more adversely impacted than others. Strategic Delivery Managers (SDMs) have a great deal of knowledge about their relevant locality and they must be engaged with as part of your Project Team at an early stage of the process.

Category Area <small>(Areas highlighted are suggestions only and there may be other impacts in these categories)</small>	Which groups will be affected?	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations / Recommendations
Community Development/ Capacity Will the proposal affect opportunities to work with communities and strengthen or reduce community capacity?	Communities near countryside estate, volunteers	Potential to build community capacity and involvement in the estate	n/a	n/a
Crime/ Community Safety Will the proposal support a joint approach to responding to crime and	Communities near countryside estate, visitors	Greater community capacity and involvement will increase pride of place in these local amenities,	n/a	n/a

addressing the causes of crime?		creating a safer and more welcoming visitor environment.		
Educational Attainment and Training	Communities near Countryside estate, visitors	Opportunities for forest schools and educational activities to support learning	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal support school improvement and help to provide access to a good education? Will the proposal support the improved supply of skills to employers and the employability of residents?				
Leisure and Culture	All	Improved facilities will enhance leisure offer on sites	Car parking charges could impact, but these are now common at countryside sites	Mitigation measures are included in the proposals
Will the proposal encourage people to participate in social and leisure activities that they enjoy?				
Volunteering	Volunteering opportunities on the estate	Enhanced volunteering offer provided by the service	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on opportunities for volunteering?				
Best Start	Communities near estate, visitors	Whilst not impacting directly on parental support, there are positive outcomes for children from outdoor visits.	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal impact on parental support (pre or postnatally), which helps to ensure that children are school-ready and have high aspirations, utilising a positive parenting approach?				
Rural Communities	Communities near estate	Improved facilities and opportunities for	n/a	n/a
Will the proposal specifically impact				

on rural communities?		involvement for individuals or community groups		
<p>Evidence Base: (Evidence used/ likelihood/ size of impact)</p> <p>The Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces 2018 report references a range of research sources, summarising the following evidence in support of how green spaces are of benefit to communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “an active life is essential for physical and mental health and wellbeing and that access to local green spaces has a positive impact on health by encouraging people to be active every day” • “Playing and learning outside is a fundamental part of childhood, and strong evidence from a four-year project commissioned by Natural England showed that learning outdoors results in children being happier, healthier and more motivated to learn.” • “Parks and green spaces improve community cohesion by offering shared spaces for community connections and to tackle social isolation (Cohen-Cline et al., 2015; Hartig et al., 2014; White et al., 2013).” <p>The MENE Children’s Report 2018-19 identified a range of positive visit outcomes reported by adults who had spent time outdoors with children (mainly outdoor visits taken by children, moderated by parents) – with the strongest levels of agreement being in relation to outcomes of enjoyment, feeling calm and feeling relaxed and revitalised. It also found that parents, guardians and other family members are an important influence on children’s engagement with nature.</p>				

Submitting a CIA

Now transfer the main findings of this assessment to the ‘**Checklist and Executive Summary**’ template. Then both documents need to be approved/signed off by the appropriate people. For CIAs that are going to **Cabinet**, only the ‘**Checklist and Executive Summary**’ will be submitted as part of the **Cabinet Papers**. The Full CIA document will be submitted as a **Background Paper**.