



**Staffordshire**  
County Council

## **Community Impact Assessment Checklist and Executive Summary**

### **Name of Proposal:**

Protecting Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation for future generations

### **Project Sponsor:**

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

### **Project Manager:**

Sarah Bentley, Environmental Advice Manager

### **Date Completed:**

**16/10/20**

## Final Checklist

Prior to submitting your Community Impact Assessment (CIA), please ensure that the actions on the checklist below have been completed, to reassure yourself / SLT / Cabinet that the CIA process has been undertaken appropriately.

Checklist	Action Completed	Comments/Actions
The project supports the Council's Business Plan, priorities and MTFS.	Yes	Delivers legal responsibilities to protect the designated features on SCC land at Cannock Chase
It is clear what the decision is or what decision is being requested.	Yes	Implementation of proposals to protect Cannock Chase following the recommended approach.
For decisions going to Cabinet, the CIA findings are reflected in the Cabinet Report and <b>potential impacts are clearly identified and mitigated for</b> (where possible).	Yes	The recommended approach incorporates mitigation measures identified in the CIA
The <b>aims, objectives and outcomes</b> of the policy, service or project have been clearly identified.	Yes	These are set out in the Cabinet paper
The <b>groups</b> who will be affected by the policy, service or project have been clearly identified.	Yes	Identified in the CIA
The <b>communities</b> that are likely to be more adversely impacted than others have been clearly identified.	Yes	Identified in the CIA
Engagement / consultation has been undertaken and is representative of the residents most likely to be affected.	Yes	Covered within the Cabinet report. There will be further consultation on specific projects / options within the plan and engagement on the detail of wider delivery for each phase of implementation of the wider proposals.
A range of people with the appropriate knowledge and expertise have contributed to the CIA.	Yes	Range of staff provided input including public health.
Appropriate evidence has been provided and used to inform the development and design of the policy, service or project. This includes data, research, engagement/consultation, case studies and local knowledge.	Yes	There is a detailed evidence base including research studies and visitor surveys. The proposals were also informed by stakeholder input and best practice from elsewhere in the UK.
The CIA <b>evidences</b> how the Council has considered its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 and how it has considered the impacts of any change on people with protected characteristics.	Yes	Identified in CIA
The next steps to deliver the project have been identified.	Yes	Development of phased implementation projects with the SAC Partnership

## Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is intended to be a collation of the key issues and findings from the CIA and other research undertaken. This should be completed after the CIA and research has been completed. Please structure the summary using the headings on the left that relate to the sections in the CIA template. Where no major impacts have been identified, please state N/A.

	<b>Which groups will be affected?</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Mitigations / Recommendations</b>
<p><b>PSED</b></p> <p>What are the impacts on residents with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010? Highlight any concerns that have emerged as a result of the equality analysis on any of the protected groups and how these will be mitigated. It is important that Elected Members are fully aware of the equality duties so that they can make an informed decision, and this can be supported with robust evidence.</p>	<p>People from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups; women; people with disabilities, and those with more limited mobility.</p> <p>These groups are often under-represented as users of countryside sites and it is important to ensure proposals reduce barriers rather than add to them.</p>	<p>The proposals include measures to enhance access such as car park improvements, better paths, signs / waymarking and interpretation which will make the area more welcoming and usable for all visitors. Car park design will include measures to reduce risks of crime and anti-social behaviour which may help people feel safer and more confident.</p>	<p>Car park closures and introduction of additional pay &amp; display may impact on ease of access to the site however impacts can be mitigated within the proposals – see next column</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall net increase in parking capacity;</li> <li>• Some free parking provision will still be available;</li> <li>• Modest charges on SCC sites with annual lower cost permit available for regular users;</li> <li>• Free parking for Blue Badge holders at SCC sites;</li> <li>• Over 70 parking areas will remain offering a choice from large car parks to small laybys;</li> <li>• Retention of parking access and improvements to all ability trail;</li> <li>• Engagement in detailed design of solutions to maximise benefits to protected groups.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and Care</b></p> <p>How will the proposal impact on residents' health? How will the proposal impact on demand for or access to social care or health services?</p>	<p>All – countryside access contributes to physical and mental health, and healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>The proposals will improve access through better paths, better surfacing, better signs / way markers and interpretation – this will</p>	<p>Car park closures and parking charges may impact on ease of access and discourage some users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall net increase in parking capacity;</li> <li>• Some free parking provision will still be available;</li> <li>• Modest charges on SCC sites with annual lower cost</li> </ul>

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		make it easier and more welcoming for people to exercise. Better paths, car parks etc can reduce the risk of falls and accidents.	Concerns for some users re social distancing requirements for COVID-19 if people are required to use fewer larger car parks	<p>permit available for regular users;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free parking for Blue Badge holders at SCC sites;</li> <li>• Varied parking at over 70 locations;</li> <li>• It will be some time before closures or charges occur therefore likely that the COVID vaccine will have been rolled out; outdoor environments are low risk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economy</b></p> <p>How will the proposal impact on the economy of Staffordshire or impact on the income of Staffordshire's residents?</p>	Local businesses; people on lower incomes	Cannock Chase is a high-profile area within Staffordshire and there are businesses that benefit directly from it, or indirectly through proximity etc. The careful management and conservation of the site, with better infrastructure for visitors, will improve people's experience of the area and ensure it is sustainable.	Car parking charges may impact on low income groups or discourage visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall net increase in parking capacity;</li> <li>• Some free parking provision will still be available;</li> <li>• Modest charges on SCC sites with annual lower cost permit available for regular users;</li> <li>• Free parking for Blue Badge holders at SCC sites;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>How will the proposal impact on the physical environment of Staffordshire? Does</p>	Housing development; land at Cannock Chase	Proposals support sustainable development	Failure to deliver mitigation measures	The proposals are designed to mitigate environmental impacts. The

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<p>this proposal have any Climate Change implications?</p>		<p>of local housing by mitigating potential impacts; significant investment in visitor infrastructure and measures to reduce the negative impacts of recreational pressure to protect wildlife and landscape for future generations; assists with climate change adaptation</p>	<p>could impact on housing or could result in significant damage to protected habitats; changes to public access arrangements</p>	<p>proposals include measures to mitigate the effects of changing access arrangements in some areas.</p>
<p><b>Localities / Communities</b></p> <p>How will the proposal impact on Staffordshire's communities?</p>	<p>Communities around the AONB</p>	<p>Improved infrastructure for visiting the Chase; potential reductions in crime and ASB through fewer and better designed parking areas</p>	<p>Car park closures and charges may impact on people's access to the area but can be mitigated – see next column</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall net increase in parking capacity;</li> <li>• Some free parking provision will still be available;</li> <li>• Modest charges on SCC sites with annual lower cost permit available for regular users;</li> <li>• Free parking for Blue Badge holders at SCC sites.</li> </ul>