

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment - the Form

There are separate guidance notes to accompany this form – “Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment – the Guide.” Please use these guidance notes as you complete this form. Throughout the form, **proposal** refers to policy, strategy, plan, procedure or report.

STEP 1: Identify essential information

1. Committee Report No.

2. Name of proposal.

3. Officers completing this form.

Name	Designation	Service	Directorate
Kathleen Sinclair	Planning Trainee	Planning and Sustainable Development	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

4. Date of Impact Assessment.

5. When is the proposal next due for review?

6. Committee Name.

7. Date the Committee is due to meet.

8. Identify the Lead Council Service and who else is involved in the delivery of this proposal. (for example other Council services or partner agencies)

Planning and Sustainable Development is the lead Council Service. An officer working group comprising operational and strategic Council staff, as well as staff from Aberdeen Greenspace, was set up in order to develop the proposed Directional Signage Guidance for Paths. Aberdeen Outdoor Access Forum, which brings together key stakeholders in access to the outdoors including land managers, user groups, communities Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council, has also been involved throughout the development of the guidance.

9. Please summarise this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment, (EHRIA). This must include any practical actions you intend to take / have taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse negative impacts (if necessary continue on blank sheet of paper). **Please return to this question after completing EHRIA.**

This EHRIA was carried out on the proposed Directional Signage Guidance for Paths which provides advice on the planning, design and implementation of directional signage for paths in open spaces and other rural areas. The assessment did not identify any negative impacts associated with the guidance. It did identify a number of positive impacts for the citizens of Aberdeen and its visitors as a whole. These included contributions to health, the environment, social inclusion and quality of life. In particular, the guidance was found to have a positive impact on the following equality target groups: older, younger, disability, gender and poverty. The guidance was also found to promote good relations and wider community cohesion. The implementation of the guidance will be monitored in order to identify any unanticipated negative impacts. If negative impacts are identified, these will be addressed and the guidance will be updated at the next review.

10. Where will you publish the results of the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment? Tick all that apply.

- ✓ Summary of EHRIA will be published in committee report under section “Equality Impact Assessment”
- ✓ Full EHRIA will be attached to the committee report as an appendix
- ✓ Summary of EHRIA to be published on Council website within relevant service pages

STEP 2: Outline the aims of the proposal

11. What are the main aims of the proposal?

The Land reform (Scotland) Act 2003 introduced a right of responsible, non-motorised access to most land and inland water in Scotland. Directional signage is recognised as a key tool in helping to promote and manage access rights, including paths and other access opportunities.

Directional Signage Guidance for Paths aims to deliver a clear and consistent approach to directional signage across the city, leading to an easily identifiable path network and the provision of clear and relevant information on way-finding for path users.

The guidance is intended to provide advice to land managers on the planning, design and implementation of directional signage for paths and other access opportunities located within open spaces and other rural areas in Aberdeen.

12. Who will benefit most from the proposal?

Overall, Directional Signage Guidance for Paths aims to assist with the promotion and management of paths and other outdoor access opportunities in Aberdeen, leading to benefits for all of society.

An increase in the promotion of paths and other outdoor access opportunities will help to deliver physical and mental health benefits by encouraging participation in active, outdoor pursuits. An increase in the use of paths will also contribute to social inclusion and should improve perceptions of safety for path users.

By encouraging participation in sustainable and active travel, increased promotion will contribute to reductions in traffic related emissions and noise pollution. It will also help to ease congestion in the City leading to reduced journey times. Such environmental benefits will in turn lead to improvements in health and quality of life for all of Aberdeen's citizens and visitors. Increased awareness of active travel options will also provide people with an alternative to travel by private car or public transport, giving people the option of travelling for free by walking or cycling, reducing travel costs. This will be of particular benefit for those on lower incomes.

Better promotion of Aberdeen's access opportunities can also have local economic benefits. Well signed paths will provide a positive experience for visitors, thereby encouraging tourism. Reduced journey times and an attractive environment can also lead to benefits for local business and their employees.

The guidance is also intended to benefit land managers by providing advice on the management of access through the installation of directional signage. Improved land and access management will lead to further environmental benefits, for example by directing people away from sensitive areas. Such environmental improvements will contribute to improved quality of life in Aberdeen.

13. Tell us if and how the proposal will increase equality of opportunity by permitting positive action to redress disadvantage?

Directional Signage Guidance for Paths has been developed to benefit all members of society. It does not specifically target one equality group.

The recommended signage design standard has been developed in line with best practice guidance in order to be accessible to all user types and abilities.

14. What impact will the proposal have on promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?

By promoting and encouraging access, directional signage will contribute to social inclusion by offering path users the opportunity to interact with each other. It will also promote paths and outdoor access as a resource which can be used by community groups (e.g. walking groups, youth groups, schools etc.).

The guidance will help to foster good relations between the Council and land managers by assisting them in the development of directional signage. A well-managed access network will also help to reduce conflict between path users and land managers.

By providing a welcoming and attractive environment, directional signage can help to foster caring attitudes and a sense of pride in the local area, contributing to quality of life

and community cohesion.

STEP 3: Gather and consider evidence

15. What evidence is there to identify any potential positive or negative impacts in terms of consultation, research officer knowledge and experience, equality monitoring data, user feedback and other?

Consultation

- Consultation undertaken during the development of Aberdeen’s Strategy for Access to the Outdoors (2004), Aberdeen’s Core Paths Plan (2009) and, more recently, the proposed Open Space Strategy identified path promotion, including the provision of signage, as being important in order to encourage use of Aberdeen’s paths and other access opportunities. This will allow the many benefits of outdoor access to be realised.
- Aberdeen Outdoor Access Forum (AbOAF), which brings together all of the key stakeholders in access to the outdoors including land managers, user groups, communities, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and NHS Grampian, is supportive of the promotion and management of outdoor access through the use of signage. AbOAF has been involved in the development of this guidance.

Data/ Information

- Paths for All (PFA), the national partnership for access, recommend the use of signage in order to promote access to the outdoors. PFA has produced national guidance called “Signage Guidance for Outdoor Access”. This details the benefits of signing for outdoor access, as well as providing advice on signage planning and design. It provides guidance on ensuring that signage is accessible to all users. This national guidance has been followed during the development of Signage Guidance for Paths.
- The Fieldfare Trust ‘Countryside for All’ Good Practice Guide provides further advice on the provision of countryside facilities and interpretation for all abilities. This advice has been followed during the development of Signage Guidance for Paths.
- Government Guidance “Part 1 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities” notes that core paths will only be successful if they are well used. In order to achieve this, it requires that core paths are promoted, for example through clear signposting and waymarking. The Government considers that a well used network of core paths will contribute to the delivery of health, social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Action Policy 7 of Aberdeen’s Strategy for Access to the Outdoors states that paths will be promoted wherever possible, including through signage and waymarking.
- Policy 12 of Aberdeen’s Core Paths Plan 2009 states that a consistent approach to signposting will be developed. Policy 13 makes a commitment to the promotion of the core path network through signage, as well as through interpretation panels and leaflets.

Officer Knowledge and Experience

- Officers in the working group have been involved in the development and instalment of signage for many years. This has allowed them to gain a direct understanding of what constitutes good and bad design. This knowledge has informed the development of the guidance.

Equality Monitoring Data

- Condition surveys will be undertaken on all core paths. This will allow the identification of any issues relating to the provision of signage for all user types and abilities.

User Feedback

- Any issues reported by path users relating to the provision of signage for all user types and abilities will be investigated and addressed.

STEP 4: Assess likely impacts on equality strands

16. Which, if any, equality target groups and others could be affected positively or negatively by this proposal? Place the symbol in the relevant box.

(Positive +, neutral 0, - negative)

Equality Target Group					
Race*	0	Disability	+	Gender**	+
LGB***	0	Belief	0	Younger	+
Older	+	Others e.g. poverty	+		

- * Race includes Gypsies/Travellers
- ** Gender includes women, men, Transgender
- *** LGB: Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual

17. Please detail the potential positive and/or negative impacts on the groups you have highlighted above? Detail the impacts and describe the groups affected.

Positive impacts	Negative Impacts
<p>Older Path promotion through the installation of signage will encourage participation in outdoor access pursuits. An increase in active, outdoor activity will have associated physical and mental health benefits. Better promotion of paths can contribute to increased social inclusion as path users meet and interact with each other. It will also advertise paths and the outdoors as a resource which can be used by community groups. Increased use will give confidence to older people who may wish to use paths but are discouraged due to perceived safety concerns.</p> <p>Disability Path promotion through the installation of signage will encourage participation in outdoor access pursuits. An increase in active, outdoor activity will have associated physical and mental health benefits. Better promotion of paths can contribute to social inclusion as path users meet and interact with each other. It will also raise awareness of paths and the outdoors as a resource which can be used by community groups. Increased use will have a positive impact on those with a disability who may wish to use paths but are discouraged due to perceived safety concerns. The guidance recommends a signage design standard which is accessible to all abilities, including those with physical and sensory impairments and learning difficulties.</p> <p>Gender Increased use as a result of better promotion will have a positive impact on women who may wish to use paths but are discouraged due to perceived safety concerns.</p> <p>Younger Better promotion of the path network will encourage use by schools and other community clubs. This will provide opportunities for environmental education. Increased understanding of the environment can help to foster caring attitudes and a sense of pride in the local area, encouraging younger people to look after</p>	<p>N/A</p>

their local environment. This in turn will bring wider community benefits. Improved path promotion will also encourage younger people to use active travel modes for travelling to school and other activities, bringing associated health and environmental benefits. Greater use of the path network will also help to address perceptions of safety for young people and their parents.

Poverty

Increased promotion of paths will raise awareness of free travel options such as walking or cycling, rather than private car or public transport. This will benefit those on lower incomes by reducing travel costs. It will also bring health benefits for a group often associated with lower levels of health and well-being.

STEP 5: Apply the three key assessment tests for compliance assurance

18. Does this policy/procedure have the potential to interfere with an individual's rights as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998? State which rights might be affected by ticking the appropriate box(es) and how. **If you answer "no", go to question 22.**

- Article 3 – Right not to be subjected to torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment
- Article 6 – Right to a fair and public hearing
- Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence
- Article 10 – freedom of expression
- Other article not listed above

NO
How?
N/A

Legality

19. Where there is a potential negative impact is there a legal basis in the relevant domestic law?

N/A

Legitimate aim

20. Is the aim of the policy a legitimate aim being served in terms of the relevant equality legislation or the Human Rights Act?

N/A

Proportionality

21. Is the impact of the policy proportionate to the legitimate aim being pursued? Is it the minimum necessary interference to achieve the legitimate aim?

N/A

STEP 6: Monitor and review

22. How will you monitor the implementation of the proposal? (For example, customer satisfaction questionnaires)

- Regular condition surveys will be undertaken on all core paths in order to monitor signage provision and condition.
- Information received from Council officers, partners, land managers and members of the public will be used to monitor signage provision and condition.
- The Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) will be used to keep detailed records of directional signage across the City.
- Data from people counters and path surveys will be used to monitor the level of path use.

23. How will the results of this impact assessment and any further monitoring be used to develop the proposal?

Directional Signage Guidance for Paths has been developed using best practice guidelines in order to ensure that signage is accessible to all user types and abilities. However, if monitoring reveals that the guidance should be improved, Aberdeen City Council will seek to address this. Where appropriate, any amendments required will be incorporated into updated guidance at the next review. Similarly, if national guidance is updated, Signage Guidance for Paths will be reviewed in order to reflect any changes.

STEP 7 SIGN OFF

The final stage of the EHRIA is formally to sign off the document as being a complete, rigorous and robust assessment.

Person(s) completing the impact assessment.

Name	Date	Signature
Kathleen Sinclair	2 nd March 2011	

Quality check: document has been checked by

Name	Date	Signature
Rachel Sharp		

Head of Service (Sign-off)

Name	Date	Signature
Margaret Bochel		

Now –

Please send a copy of your completed EHRIA together with the proposal to:

Head of Service
Customer Service and Performance
Aberdeen City Council
St. Nicholas House, Broad Street
Aberdeen, AB10 1GZ