

Screening/Scoping Pro Forma

Section	Parks and Countryside - Mobile	Officer responsible for the screening/scoping	Phil Newcombe
Name of Policy to be assessed	Grass Cutting, Grounds and Highway Verge Maintenance	Date of Assessment	20/08/08
		Is this a proposed new or existing policy/procedure/practice?	Existing Practice
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/procedure/practice?	To keep the areas including grass and shrub beds maintained by Parks and Countryside looking neat and tidy. To maintain sightlines on highway verges. Also, maintaining areas of GBC Housing, and Surrey County Council (SCC) Highway verges.		
2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the policy/procedure/practice? Please explain.	Promotes a positive image of the Borough Embraces Borough Cleaner Safer Greener policy <u>Highways</u> – to cut grass 7 times per annum on highway verges to maintain sightlines, to keep the borough looking neat and tidy, for a positive experience for residents and visitors to Guildford Borough. <u>Housing</u> To manage grounds of housing centres, housing stock, and housing land to the required standard by the housing dept.		
3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?	General public, residents and visitors to the Borough. Safety of road and highway users. Housing and centre residents.		
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/procedures/practice?	Safe and tidy management of housing, estates, and highway verges. Pleasant managed environment across the borough Safe Working Practices Positive feedback from the public, residents and visitors		
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	Budgets of stakeholders. Skilled workforce Available equipment, machinery and vehicles. Legislation e.g. reduced use of pesticides for herbicide weed control		
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?	Guildford Borough Council General Public – Customers Surrey County Council Neighbourhood and Housing management.	7. Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy?	Parks and Countryside Service Management Surrey County Council Neighbourhood and Housing Management

8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?		N Please explain Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in regards to grass verge, highway, and housing grounds maintenance.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group	
9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender?		N Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in regards to grass verge, highway, and housing grounds maintenance.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group	
10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to disability?	Y	Neighbourhood and Housing policies, SCC Highways direct grass cutting and shrub bed standards for clear definition and the control of vegetation that may impinge on highways or footpaths.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	Vegetation control adjacent to pathways, and entrances, are monitored as part of the practice and attended to. Failure to follow agreed practice could restrict access for disability groups.	
11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?		N Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in regards to grass verge, highway, and housing grounds maintenance.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group	
12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their age?	Y	Neighbourhood and Housing policies, SCC Highways direct grass cutting and shrub bed standards for clear definition and the control of vegetation that may impinge on highways or footpaths.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	Vegetation control adjacent to pathways, and entrances, are monitored as part of the practice and attended to. Failure to follow agreed practice could restrict access for the elderly group.	
13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their religious belief?		N Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in regards to grass verge, highway, and housing grounds maintenance.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group	

14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities?			N However see age and disability notes Re Access and pathways.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them have an offending past?			N
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			Parks and countryside Service has a positive involvement with volunteers and with an offending past, and links with a local HMP for work experience and job application opportunities
16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them being Transgender or transsexual?			N Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in regards to grass verge, highway, and housing grounds maintenance.
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy/procedure/practice?		N	Please explain The noted impact for the elderly or disabled regarding clean paths is only an issue if the practice is not followed. This is similar for highways and sightlines
18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?		N	Please explain for each heading (questions 8-16) on a separate piece of paper.
Business improvement			An increase in communication with Neighbourhood and Housing has enabled a forum in which to explore the needs of the customer.

<p>19. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above groups?</p>		<p>N</p>	
<p>20. Does differential impact or unmet need cut across the equality strands (e.g. elder BME groups)?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>21. If yes, should the full EIA be conducted jointly with another service area/contractor/partner/agency?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>Please explain</p>
<p>22. Is there a missed opportunity to improve your business in relation to any of the policies, procedures or practices to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality?</p>			<p>No, however liaison as in item 19 will ensure support to our customers in Housing, in the area of disability and access for their clients.</p>

			Yes	No
		<p>24. If No, are there any changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?</p>		

Signed
(completing officer)

Date August 2008

Signed
(Head of Section)

Date

Countersigned
(HR representative)

Date October 2008