

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

requires consultation, advance equality or opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Bird Aware Partnership Revised Strategy
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Bird Aware Strategy (previously known as the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Strategy) requires development contributions towards the Solent Disturbance Mitigation Project (SDMP). New residential developments must mitigate against the ‘in combination’ effects that increased numbers of residents in the region, and therefore increased numbers of visits to the coastal Special Protection Areas (SPAs), will have on the protected bird species. This mitigation is required to comply with the Habitats Regulations. The strategy therefore aims to provide mitigation for the duration of the impact, that is, for the lifetime of the additional dwellings in the Solent (‘in perpetuity’), in line with the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>The Strategy is well established and annually delivers in excess of 650 ranger patrols talking to over 8,000 people, over 50 community events allowing the rangers to speak with a further 1,500 people and over 30 guided walks with a total of over 400 people taking part.</p> <p>The Partnership further extends this outreach work with effective communication tools such as leaflets (6,000 delivered annually), site signage and targeted social media posts (over 10,000 followers across different platforms).</p> <p>Through this work (and other measures) the Partnership is currently able to provide effective mitigation for over 2,500 residential planning permissions annually. However, the revised strategy seeks to provide mitigation for around 5,700 dwellings per annum and will therefore increase resources to reach more people, enabling increased residential development in all</p>	

partnership authorities, including Southampton.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The revised Bird Aware Strategy will result in additional resource brought in by the Partnership (Portsmouth City Council is the recruiting authority) to provide further ranger patrols, community events, guided walks, monitoring activity and work on additional initiatives all of which works towards the mitigation of residential development across the authority boundaries of partnership members, including Southampton.

For those applying for planning permission for residential development, the developer contributions will be adjusted via the new financial model, to ensure the appropriate resource can be employed.

The new strategy will provide mitigation for around 5,700 dwellings per annum and has been developed using each local planning authority's housing trajectory information.

Potential Positive Impacts

The revised strategy will ensure appropriate mitigation for residential development, specifically the impact upon protected bird species caused by increased visitor numbers to the coastal SPAs, aligned to all partnership member's expected residential development levels. The increased ranger patrols, events etc. will work to improve public knowledge of this issue and help to control visitor numbers in the long-term. Without this update, the expected uplift in residential development in Southampton, and the partnership authorities, would not be able to take place as the Habitats Regulations require mitigation for the duration of the impact, that is, for the lifetime of the additional dwellings in the Solent ('in perpetuity').

Responsible Service Manager	Amber Trueman
Date	11/12/2024
Approved by Senior Manager	Pete Boustred
Date	11/12/2024

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	Not applicable	Not required
Disability	Not applicable	Not required
Gender Reassignment	Not applicable	Not required

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Care Experienced	Not applicable	Not required
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Not applicable	Not required
Pregnancy and Maternity	Not applicable	Not required
Race	Not applicable	Not required
Religion or Belief	Not applicable	Not required
Sex	Not applicable	Not required
Sexual Orientation	Not applicable	Not required
Community Safety	Not applicable	Not required
Poverty	Not applicable	Not required
Health & Wellbeing	Public may be dissuaded to visit the Special Protection Areas (including Weston Shore) for recreational purposes due to the impact it can have on protected birds, therefore will be more reliant on Southampton's open spaces and the Council should try to ensure there is adequate provision for the current and future population of the city.	The emerging local plan is already required to try and ensure adequate open space provision for current and future residents, as well as the protection and enhancement of these spaces into the future. This work should therefore be continued as planned, informed by proportionate evidence to try and ensure need does not need to be met by spaces outside of the city, where possible.
Other Significant Impacts	Not applicable	Not required