



## London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

The Equality Impact Assessment Form is a public document which the Council uses to demonstrate that it has complied with Equalities Duty when making and implementing decisions which affect the way the Council works.

The form collates and summarises information which has been used to inform the planning and decision making process.

**All the information needed in this form should have already been considered and should be included in the documentation supporting the decision or initiative, e.g. the delegate powers report, saving template, business case etc.**

Equality Impact Assessments are public documents: remember to use at least 12 point Arial font and plain English.

The form must be reviewed and agreed by the relevant Assistant Director, who is responsible for ensuring it is made publicly available and is in line with guidance.

Guidance on completing this form is available on the intranet.

<http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/equalities-based-planning-and-decision-making>

### **Title and purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:**

Abney Park HLF Project

### **Purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:**

To address equalities linked to potential improvements in Abney Park

### **Officer Responsible: (to be completed by the report author)**

<b>Name: Sam Parry</b>	<b>Ext: 4899</b>
<b>Directorate: Neighbourhoods and Housing</b>	<b>Department/Division: Public Realm</b>

### **PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Please summarise the service, function, policy, initiative or saving.**  
Describe the key objectives and outcomes you expect. Make sure you highlight any proposed changes.

The proposed restoration project in Abney Park will deliver significant improvements to both the landscape and historic buildings within the Park to facilitate a range of educational, employment and health benefits for the local community as well as the ability of the site to generate revenue for the Park's

future maintenance

**2. Who are the main people that will be affected?** Consider staff, residents, and other external stakeholders.

Users of Abney Park will be affected by the improvement project in Abney Park in a positive way - there will be more facilities available in the park for users to benefit from.

**3. What research or consultation(s) have been carried out?** Please provide more details, together with a summary of what you learned.

Consultations have been a key part of the application to date and its development. The consultations which have taken place to date include:

**§ Use of Hackney Parks: Hackney Matters Survey (February – May 2015)**

An online survey was completed by 395 people in early 2015 which explored the use of parks and green spaces across Hackney, and provided useful information about how people use local parks and what kinds of activities and events would be popular.

The survey found that parks and green spaces across Hackney are currently widely used (99%), with most people using parks at least once a week during the spring / summer. Those using parks and green spaces less often may be drawn in by improved facilities (44% toilets / 39% seating) as well as publicised, affordable events.

There is a good appetite for events among residents, with 92% feeling that these are important in the community. Community events are most popular (72%), but there was also interest in food events (66%), market events (64%), music events (62%) and events for children (60%). 70% felt they would use parks more often if there were events they wanted to go to.

Nearly nine in ten (87%) exercise in parks and green spaces. Most take place in activities they have organised themselves, but 16% take part in Council run activities. There is some interest in more fitness classes, particularly among women (34%).

**§ Initial User Survey – Abney Park (2017)**

There were 129,474 visitors to Abney Park in 2017. A user survey was carried out between December 2016 and January 2017 to which participants could respond on paper or online. 409 people responded, over 97% of whom had visited the park.

More than 70% of respondents ticked more than one option as their principle reason for visiting, suggesting that the Park is used and appreciated in a number of different ways. Likewise, many respondents listed more than one theme that they like about the park,

demonstrating that the mixture of built and natural heritage is an asset. 46% of respondents visit the park once a fortnight or more frequently.

Of the current users 44% wanted to see new facilities, and most mentioned toilets and a café. 76% wanted to see more events and activities in the park – in particular events about the site itself and more of the kind of events that already take place. This suggests a high level of satisfaction with the current events programme and an appetite for more of the same.

The profile of respondents were 64% female and 35% male, predominately white British and 90% without any disability. Most users, 67%, were aged between 35 and 65, with only 14% over 65 and 2% under 25.

**§ Abney Park – Public Consultation (October – November 2018)**

Further public consultation took place at Abney's Autumn Fayre on Oct 20 2018. More than 100 visitors voted on the types of activities they would like to see in an improved Abney Park.

#### **4. Equality Impacts**

##### **4 (a) What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?**

The project will ensure that the facilities offered at the site respond to the needs of local people. As a universal facility, this project is not likely to benefit any particular group more than others.

The improvements will make the site more welcoming for people of all ages, with upgraded facilities for education and an improved forest school area.

The site will be made more accessible than it currently is. Access for buggies and wheelchairs will be improved at the Stoke Newington Church Street entrance, with the introduction of an accessible ramp. This will make it easier for older people, disabled people and parents with young children to visit the site.

The activity programme related to the project will seek to enhance use of the site amongst under-represented groups. Activities and events will be curated to attract a new audience to Abney Park.

##### **4 (b) What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?**

Where you identify potential negative impacts, you must explain how these are justified and/or what actions will be taken to eliminate or mitigate them. These actions should be included in the action plan.

There is the potential for the improvements to have a positive impact on the wider

local community. Improvements could facilitate more community use and enhance community cohesion.

There are differing views on what facilities Abney Park should provide, however, and improvements may not be supported by everyone. It is proposed that consultation is carried out with residents and users to prioritise the elements of the project.