



Equality impact assessment update - summary report for Highway Verges and Vegetation Policy

Date of assessment update: April 2018

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Role: Highway Service Development Manager

Impact assessment (project or service, strategy or policy) that was updated:

Policy Statement 7.2 Highway Verges and Vegetation

Background

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the updated Policy 7.2 Highway Verges and Vegetation.

The policy statements have been reviewed and updated in line with recent budget changes. Amendments have also been made to improve clarity and consistency with existing verge maintenance procedures.

The only proposed amendment which will significantly change the service currently provided is the proposed reduction to the number of urban verge cuts each year from five to two.

An Equality Impact Assessment has not previously been carried out on this policy so the existing policy statements have been assessed as well as the proposed amendments.

Summary of findings

Research suggests that this policy will generally have a positive or neutral effect on highway users with protected characteristics.

However, some aspects of the policy such as frequency of grass and hedge cutting and siding have been identified which have potential for negative impact at certain times of year when vegetation may be overgrown.

Feedback from customers on the existing policies over the last two years was analysed. It suggests that generally the impact is infrequent and affects a small proportion of people with protected characteristics.

The proposed reductions to grass cutting in urban areas may have a higher impact due to the greater number of service users in urban areas. Mitigation measures have been put in place to minimise any potential impact.

Summary of recommendations and key points of action plan:

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Current budgetary constraints mean that it is not possible to reduce the risk of impact by increasing the level of maintenance.

Instead, an efficient process whereby customers with protected characteristics can easily contact us and where we can respond to any issues that they experience will be put in place. Over time, it may be possible to identify hotspots that routinely cause problems and a more proactive approach can be taken in these areas, subject to funds being available.

These measures will help to mitigate the effects and are expected to reduce the impact to an acceptable level.

A review will be carried out at the end of the first cutting season. All Highway Policies are reviewed every two years or more often where incidents, complaints/feedback, changes to legislation or best practice necessitate a more urgent review.

The policy review process will take into consideration feedback/complaints from users, particularly where it relates to equality, to help support and inform decision making.

Groups that this project or service will impact upon

Please mark the appropriate boxes with an 'x'

	Positive	Negative
Age	X	X
Disability	X	X
Ethnicity		
Gender/Transgender		
Marriage or Civil partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity	X	X
Religion/Belief		
Sexual Orientation		
Other (including carers/rurality etc)	X	X
All		