

**SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS**

<b>Directorate</b>	Environment
<b>Service Area</b>	Parks
<b>Service/policy/function being assessed</b>	Upgrade the play equipment at Raleigh Road playground to include equipment for children with disabilities and SEND, and new equipment for able-bodied users.
<b>Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to</b>	Richmond upon Thames
<b>Staff involved</b>	Erin Dunford Hugo Ross-Tatam
<b>Date approved by Policy and Review Manager</b>	Jan 2020

**SUMMARY**

As part of Richmond Council’s continued commitment to improve our Parks and Open Spaces. The Council’s Parks team are proposing to upgrade the play provision at Raleigh Road Recreation Ground. We are seeking to add value to this community park by providing equipment and stimulation for children with disabilities and special education needs (SEND).

We are proposing to make the play space integrated, enabling disabled and able-bodied children to play together. The improvements will include a wheelchair swing and additional seating that has at least one side with easy access for those with additional mobility needs/ buggies. The current walkways will be improved to make it easier for buggies and wheelchairs to move across the ground, and a sensory pathway will be added with textured flooring and a variety of colours and shapes at eye level to offer stimulation and interest for all children.

**1. Background**

The Parks team are proposing to upgrade the play equipment at Raleigh Road Recreation Ground by providing equipment and stimulation for children with disabilities and special education needs (SEND), as well as new equipment for able-bodied users.

The proposals would make the play space integrated, enabling disabled and able-bodied children to play together through:

- The installation of a wheelchair swing and additional seating that has at least one side with easy access for those with additional mobility needs or buggies
- Improvement of the current walkways to make it easier for buggies and wheelchairs to move across the ground
- The addition of a sensory pathway with textured flooring and a variety of colours and shapes at eye level to offer stimulation and interest for all children

**2. Analysis of need and impact**

<b>Protected group</b>	<b>Findings</b>
Age	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The estimated population of North Richmond Ward is 12,075. This is the 3rd most populated ward of the 18 wards that make up the borough with a total population estimated at 199,421 people. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2456 of the population of North Richmond are aged between 0-15, whereas 41,459 of the population across the whole borough are 0-15. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>• There are also 1,851 people aged 65 and over within the ward, compared to 30,631 across the borough. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of the North Richmond Ward is made up of 0-15 year olds, and the 0-19 population is expected to grow by 4.4% in Richmond by 2026. (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> <li>• In Richmond, the largest age group is those aged 9 - 11 years old (20.7%). This is followed by those aged 15 to 17 years old (19.9%) and those aged 12 - 14 years old (19.0%). (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> </ul> <p>The proposed development of Raleigh Road playground would make the play space integrated, enabling disabled and able-bodied children to play together, and provide additional trees for residents and visitors to enjoy.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.6% of the North Richmond ward population have activity limited a lot due to poor health, compared to 4.9% across the borough. 320 people in the ward are in very-poor health to poor health, whereas 6026 are in very-poor health to poor health across the borough. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>• There are 1381 children people across the borough with Special Educational Needs or Education, Health or Care Plan. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>• 10.2% of Children in Need (CiN) have a disability in Richmond. This equates to 801 children. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>• Disability - of the 0-24 population have SEND; in Richmond, the figure is 2.4%; Nationally, 2.9% of the pupil population have an EHCP. (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> <li>• In terms of primary need - in Richmond, 29.3% have Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD); 18.8% have Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN); and 12.7% have SEMH. ASD is the most common primary need nationally. (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b></p> <p>The proposed development of the playground will create an inclusive play area for children with and without disabilities which is accessible to both boys and girls, therefore benefiting local children with disabilities and SEND.</p>
<b>Gender</b>	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48.6% of the population in the North Richmond ward are male and 51.4% is female as compared to 48.2 % Male and 51.8% Female in the borough. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>• SEN is more prevalent in boys than girls. Across England boys 4.4% and girls 1.7%. (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> <li>• SEN is more prevalent in boys aged 9 at 23% and girls aged 10 at 13%. (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b></p> <p>No specific issues raised</p>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14% of the North Richmond ward population are BAME as compared to the borough average of 16%. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Richmond, 57.2% of children and young people with SEND are White, 16.0% are BAME, and the ethnicity of 26.8% is not known. The largest BAME group is Mixed (6.6%). (<i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i>)</li> <li>Although it is difficult to draw conclusions from the data as the ethnicity of a significant percentage of children and young people with SEND is not known, it can be assumed that those from a BAME background are over-represented amongst the cohort, as is the case nationally</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b> No specific issues raised</p>
<b>Religion of belief</b>	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61.7% of the North Richmond ward population has religion; 53.5% Christian, 1.1% Buddhist, 1.3% Hindu, 1% Jewish, 3.8% Muslim, 0.5% Sikh, 0.6% other, 29.7% No religion and 8.7% not stated. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> <li>This compared to the borough figures of: 63.1% have religion, 55.3% Christian, 0.8% Buddhist, 1.6% Hindu, 0.8% Jewish, 3.3% Muslim, 0.9% Sikh, 0.5% other, 28.5% no religion and 8.5% not stated. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b> No specific issues raised</p>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p><b>Population data</b> Data not collected in 2011 Census</p> <p><b>Findings</b> No specific issues raised</p>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<p><b>Population data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.4% of the North Richmond ward population are registered in a same-sex civil partnership, which is the same as 0.4% of the borough population. Whereas, 44.4% are registered as married as compared to 47.3% across the borough. (<i>DataRich</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b> No specific issues raised</p>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p><b>Population data</b> Data not collected in 2011 Census</p> <p><b>Findings</b> No specific issues raised</p>

### 3. Impact

<b>Protected group</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Age</b>	<p>The proposal is to re-develop the existing playground into an inclusive playground for children of all abilities.</p> <p>An upgrade will provide equipment to children not available elsewhere in the borough and attract more children, both able-bodied, disable</p>	<p>Resulting from the public consultation, 2 comments raised concern about increased noise and disturbance for residents and whether able-bodied children would be discouraged from using the playground.</p>

	and with SEND, and parents to the area.	
<b>Disability</b>	The proposals include the provision play equipment for children with SEND and/or a disability, as well as wheelchair friendly seating. There is a significant shortage of accessible play equipment for children with SEND. In Richmond there is currently no play equipment available for children with SEND therefore the proposal will benefit the 2.4% of Children and Young people in Richmond with SEND along with all wheelchair users of all ages.	No negative impacts have been identified.
<b>Gender</b>	Statistics show that SEN is more prevalent in boys at 4.4% than with girls at 1.7%. The proposal will directly benefit both boys and girls.	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Ethnicity</b>	20.4% of children and young people from Richmond (not including White other, which accounts for 14.4%) are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.  The playground proposal will benefit children in the Borough from a BAME background. Nationally, higher rates of BAME is likely to be SEND, therefore young people in the Borough with BME will benefit from the proposal. ( <i>AFC Equalities Summary Report 2018-19</i> )	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Religion of belief</b>	Religion or belief has no specific impact on the proposal.	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	Gender reassignment has no specific impact on the proposal.	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	Marriage and civil partnership have no specific impact on the proposal.	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Pregnancy and maternity have no specific impact on the proposal.	No specific negative impact has been identified.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Sexual orientation has no specific impact on the proposal.	No specific negative impact has been identified.

#### 4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
<p>A decision on next steps will be made by Ward Councillors and the Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee. If a decision is made to go ahead with the proposals, the parks team would plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform visitors to Raleigh Road Recreation Ground of the outcome of the consultation.</li> <li>• Communicate through the Council website and social media the plans for the proposed playground and improve finger sign posting in the surrounding area to the park.</li> <li>• Arrange for the Croft Centre to communicate visiting parents of the plans to create a SEND friendly play area.</li> <li>• Arrange for delivery and installation and inform users and Ward Councillors prior to the works taking place.</li> <li>• Work with our grounds maintenance contractor on creating a sensory garden, similar to the one that was installed at Heathfield Recreation Ground.</li> <li>• Liaise with our tree team and grounds maintenance contractor on additional trees.</li> <li>• Inform SWLEN of the five respondents who would like to create a new Friends Group and offer to support SWLEN where required.</li> </ul> <p>The Council would aim to install the new play equipment in the New Year (January/February 2020), with the sensory garden to follow in the spring, along with tree planting.</p>	Hugo Ross-Tatam	May 2020

#### 5. Consultation. (optional section– as appropriate)

Public consultation complete.

- The consultation was advertised to park and playground users via posters displayed in Raleigh Road Recreation Ground. A press release to promote the consultation was also provided by the Council's Comms team.
- The consultation was featured on the consultation's portal on the Richmond Council website, as well as tweeted on the Council's twitter page.
- 82% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal.
- 12% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal.
- 6% of respondents neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal.
- 1% of respondents disclosed that they had a disability