

Date of EIA: July 2005

Directorate **Environment and Leisure**

Function or policy to be assessed **Leisure Section**

Is it a policy or function	Function - Delivery of a broad range of high quality and popular leisure services meeting the needs of the entire local community
Is it a new or existing policy or function?	Existing
Aim / objective / purpose of the policy or function	The Leisure Section aims to improve the health of the community, generate learning opportunities and contribute to making Bracknell Forest a better place to live.
Who is responsible for the policy or function?	The Assistant Director -Leisure Services and Leisure Section Management team oversee this work. Two of the leisure facilities are owned by BFBC and operated by private management contractors. The remainder of BFBC's leisure facilities are managed on an in-house basis.
With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the policy or function?	<p>All people who live or work in Bracknell Forest could be impacted by the function. With regard to equalities themes, this could include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black and minority ethnic people • Women • Younger people • Older people • Disabled people • Gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered people • People on low incomes • People following particular faiths
Which groups might be affected adversely ?	<p>People may be excluded from accessing leisure services for a range of reasons. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness that facilities exist – e.g. if information is not available to people with visual impairments; people for whom English is not a first language; people with low literacy skills etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appropriate facilities e.g. for disabled people; people with particular religious needs; single sex sessions • Inability to afford travel to centres or charges for activities • The ability to provide services that meet specific needs e.g. for disabled people • The safety of the leisure facilities for elderly / vulnerable / female visitors • Feeling uncomfortable in using leisure facilities because of the attitude of staff or other users e.g. disabled people; older people; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered people
<p>What evidence has been found to indicate this? (include any consultation undertaken)</p>	<p>Presently, there is regular monitoring of these services provided via various inspection activities of the Leisure Manager, annual completion of customer service audits (mystery visits), responding to complaints, monthly performance review meetings, user questionnaires, customer focus groups, customer feedback forms and comments received at other events.</p> <p>There is no evidence from the above stated sources to indicate that people in any of the equalities groups have been adversely affected in how the Council currently provides its leisure service.</p> <p>However, Leisure Services considers that there is scope to build up more data in order to validate this conclusion. The attached EIA -Action Plan includes some proposals to collect more extensive data.</p> <p>DDA audits have been conducted at all BFBC leisure facility premises and improvements have been made e.g. improvements to signage, entrance access/egress, internal decoration, washroom facilities, information availability in a wide range of formats on request, induction loops, hoists and other specific equipment and changing facilities.</p> <p>Leisure Section facilities currently advertise in the local press and other media including radio, other local centres/facilities, libraries and on the Council website to ensure they reach as wide an audience as possible.</p>

On what grounds can adverse or differential impact be justified?	Not applicable
What changes are proposed to the policy or function to reduce or remove adverse or differential impact?	None required at this stage
In to which plan or strategy has the necessary action been incorporated?	BFBC – Leisure Section EIA – Action Plan.
What monitoring arrangements have been put in place?	See above for current monitoring arrangements and see attached EIA - Action Plan for proposed additions.
What conclusions have been drawn or recommendations have been made?	See attached EIA - Action Plan for actions planned for 2005. This assessment plan is to be reviewed again in 2006 in order to consider the additional data collected. To provide a clear audit trail illustrating that all Bracknell Forest residents are receiving an effective and efficient service.
Has the information in this EIA been made publicly available?	Yes - on the council website.