

**Dorset County Council Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit
Assessment Form**

Title of Policy/Strategy/service, being assessed:	C-SCOPE Marine Plan
Name of Directorate and service:	Environment Services, Dorset Coast Forum
Name and role of officers completing this assessment:	Ness Smith, C-SCOPE Project Officer
Contact Telephone Number of lead officer :	01305 221698
Date assessment completed:	10/05/12

1. Is this a new policy/strategy/service or a review of an existing one?

This is a new Marine Plan produced as part of a three year Interreg IV A 'Two Seas' Project conducted by the Dorset Coast Forum (DCF).

**2. What are the aims and objectives of the policy/strategy/service that is being assessed?
(For guidance see appendix B)**

The C-SCOPE Marine Plan is intended to provide **non-statutory** guidance and provides users, managers and regulators of the marine plan area, whether in public, private or voluntary sectors, with direction, policies and advice to ensure that their plans and activities contribute to sustainable development in the area.

The Plan has eight objectives:

Objective 1: healthy, diverse, productive marine and coastal environment *A healthy, productive marine environment where diversity and natural beauty is protected and enhanced, and whose resources are used sustainably, maintaining the integrity of marine eco-systems.*

Objective 2: thriving, resilient coastal communities *Coastal communities that have a high quality of life, that can thrive and prosper in harmony with a healthy marine environment*

Objective 3: successful, sustainable marine economy *Successful, efficient marine enterprises that operate safely and responsibly, making innovative and sustainable use of the environment on which they depend while respecting the limits of that environment to accommodate change and development.*

Objective 4: responsible, equitable and safe access *Opportunities to experience the marine environment responsibly, enjoyably and safely are made available to all, managed at a level the environment can sustain and in a way which is compatible with commercial and other strategic uses.*

Objective 5: adaptation and mitigation for coastal and climate change *Maritime communities and businesses are well prepared for the physical, economic and management challenges they face, and well placed to take advantage of the opportunities presented by coastal and climate change, particularly where they benefit the local economy.*

Objective 6: strategic significance of the marine environment *Decisions about and uses of the marine environment recognise its strategic significance to the UK's national security and it's social, economic and environmental well-being.*

Objective 7: valuing, enjoying and understanding the marine and historic environments, and wider cultural

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heritage Organisations and individuals value, understand and conserve the character and diversity of the marine environment, including its significant natural and cultural heritage.

Objective 8: Using sound science and data, and ensuring integration with existing plans and policies. Decisions should be made for the long-term on the basis of sound science and evidence, informed by local knowledge and priorities, or robust assessment of risk where evidence not available. The Plan should integrate with SMPs, terrestrial plans, LDFs and other relevant plans and policies.

3. What needs or priorities is the policy/strategy/service designed to meet?

The C-SCOPE Marine Plan has been designed to deliver sustainable development in the marine environment; it will clarify Dorset's marine objectives and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resource.

4. Who and/or what has been involved with implementing the policy, strategy, or service? (For guidance see appendix B)

The C-SCOPE project team were responsible for coordinating the production of the Marine Plan; hosted by DCC, the Team seeks to promote and apply the principles of DCC's Equality and Diversity Policies within its work and influence. Stakeholders were integral to the project's management and delivery. The Marine Planning Task & Finish Group, consisting of around 30 DCF members, met a total of six times over two years and was involved in every stage of marine plan development. Stakeholders from the Group were also engaged on a one-to-one basis where necessary; for instance several meetings were held with Portland Harbour Authority Ltd to ensure integration between its numerous Port plans and strategies and the C-SCOPE Marine Plan.

An interactions matrix was completed as part of the marine plan evidence base; for this study over fifty stakeholders were interviewed including representatives from major sectors such as shipping, offshore renewables, ports, MoD and fishing. Over 120 DCF members were also involved in a consultation workshop for the Land and Seascape Character Assessment. At a more local level, a series of six community road-shows were held throughout the marine plan area which allowed residents to share their vision for the Dorset coast and express how and where they use the coast.

Running in parallel to the Marine Planning process, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has also been conducted by the consultants Environ to ensure full integration of environmental, social and economic objectives and to provide a robust test of the plan-making process with an element of external challenge.

The C-SCOPE Marine Plan and SA are subject to a broad consultation process across the Dorset Coast Forum (260 member organisations) and is available on the DCF and C-SCOPE websites to allow others involved in coastal and marine management to input into the consultation. The consultation period is three months. This supports the development of increased awareness and ownership of the Marine Plan (including Equality and Diversity principles) across all members and their partners and customers.

5. In relation to the policy/strategy/service what do you think are the main issues, positive and/or negative relating to the different equality strands?

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Information in Section 5 will help with analysis, particularly about what impact the new policy/strategy/service will have on citizens under each of the diversity strands. Give a few examples of positive impacts (A) that have happened or will take place under each strand. Also identify under each strand where further development is/may be needed (B)

An example under the disability strand:

(a) *The National Retail Model for Integrated Community Equipment Service has impacted positively on people with a disability by offering citizens more choice and control over choosing equipment to help them live safely at home.*

(b) *Further development is required in order to help with collection of unwanted equipment*

(NB: further developments should end up in the Implementation Plan at the back of the EqIA)

You need to demonstrate that you have used data from existing sources to tell you about the current policy/strategy/service in terms of meeting the needs of the different equality strands.

What does consultation with stakeholders/beneficiaries tell you about the current or proposed policy/strategy/service? Your sources could include, for example, census data, DCC employee survey, the bi annual residents' survey and other research findings.

(For an overview of the main issues to consider refer to guidance notes in appendix B and E.)

Disability

(a) The C-SCOPE Marine Plan is in a 'readable format' in electronic and hard copy forms and is compliant with DDA Guidelines. Although audio versions are not available, electronic copies can be enlarged to improve readability for people with visual impairment and large text hard copies will be made available if possible.

Whilst the primary aim of the Marine Plan is to deliver sustainable development in the marine environment, a number of the policies within the Marine Plan examine topics and issues which impact on, or relate to disabled issues. Where this is the case, The principles of DCC's Equality and Diversity Policy will be considered and applied where possible to maximise inclusivity. (e.g. policy **REA 6: Development of infrastructure to support waterborne transport, particularly as an alternative to road transport, will be supported where consistent with the other policies in this plan** and policy **REA 8: Developments which remove the physical and psychological barriers that prevent people, including under-represented groups, from accessing and enjoying the coast and marine environment will be supported where consistent with the other policies in this plan.**)

Race/Ethnicity

The Marine Plan focuses primarily on sustainable development in the marine environment, and is unlikely to focus specifically on race or ethnicity issues. Where any such issues do emerge, although the Sustainability principle is the strategic priority, issues of race and ethnicity will be examined closely and the application of the principles of DCC's E+D Policy sought.

Gender (including Transgender)

(a) The DCS is not expected to impact on grounds of gender.

Sexual Orientation

(a) The DCS is not expected to impact on grounds of Sexual Orientation at any stage.

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Faith/Religion/belief

(a) It is not anticipated that Faith Religion / Belief will be an issue, as all policies will focus on Sustainability and seek to be inclusive. In the unlikely event of issues being identified, they will be considered carefully and where possible, the principles of DCC's E+D Policy applied.

Age

(a) It is not anticipated that the Marine Plan will impact negatively on the grounds of age, to the contrary, a number of policies seek to encourage skills training in the young, access to the marine environment and marine education for all ages.

Other factors of disadvantage to consider eg: socio-economic, rurality (although these are not characteristic's protected by the Equality legislation.

(a) The C-SCOPE Marine Plan aims to deliver sustainable development in the marine environment. Many of the objectives, and the policies which sit under them, address factors of disadvantage, particularly socio-economic issues. For example; *Objective 2: thriving, resilient coastal communities, Objective 3: successful, sustainable marine economy*. The Sustainability Appraisal conducted in parallel with the Marine Plan helped to ensure that the policy making process was fair, transparent and contributes to achieving sustainable development.

6. Are there any aspects of the policy//strategy/service (not already identified under Section 5) that result in quantifiable or different quality outcomes for different groups (higher or lower uptake/failure to access/receive a poorer or inferior service/evidence that different groups have different needs)? (see guidance notes in appendix B)

There may be some hard to reach groups (such as visitors to the Dorset coast) who are unable to access the C-SCOPE Marine Plan.

7. What further data/consultation do you need carry out if any? Please include the actions in the attached improvement plan.

It is not envisaged that any further consultation will be required at this stage. Consultation with any potentially disadvantaged or interested group(s) will be carried out if / as issues are identified.

8. In what way(s) might this service/strategy/policy have an adverse impact on the grounds of race/ethnicity, gender, disability, age, religion/Faith/belief, sexual orientation, or rurality? Please give your reasons/evidence for this, use your answers from box 5 - 7 [Note: "Adverse impact" means that the policy/strategy/service is disadvantageous to one or more groups of people.]

It is not anticipated that the C-SCOPE Marine Plan will have an adverse impact on any of the above grounds. However, The Marine Plan seeks to deliver sustainable development in the marine environment and, although a Sustainability Appraisal has been conducted, there may occasionally be a conflict of interest between the sustainability principle and the views / requirements of some members of society. Where this occurs, it will be examined as part of the Marine Plan review.

NB Only fill the sections that are relevant to you.

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9. If you have identified that the service or policy is having, or might be having, an adverse impact, is it justifiable or legitimate? Please give your reasons for this. (see appendix B for examples)
As above, The Sustainability principle underpins the Marine Plan and will generally be chosen as the priority where conflict between environmental and human impact occurs. However, all issues involving Equality and Diversity will be considered carefully and taken into account.
10. If you have concluded that the adverse impact or the discrimination <u>is justifiable or legitimate</u>, you will need to explain your actions and reasons. This is because the county council has a statutory duty to promote good relations between people of different groups. You will need to think what action could be taken to mitigate the adverse impact on people. Please include the actions in the attached improvement plan.
The C-SCOPE Marine Plan seeks to deliver sustainable development in Dorset's coast and inshore waters. Potentially this will conflict with some people's interests and views - strategic decisions may benefit one part of society more than another or policies may emphasise, for example, protecting the environment over development. This may be considered to impact on rural employment or economically disadvantaged groups. It is hoped, subject to funding, that the effects of the Marine Plan will be monitored on a regular basis, and the Plan will be reviewed every five years as a minimum. Where impacts are identified as significant, consultation on potential solutions will be pursued via the DCF and interest groups as part of the DCF's remit
11. If you have concluded that the adverse impact or the discrimination <u>is illegal</u>, you must take action to remedy this immediately. Please outline the action you will be taking and include it in your improvement plan (see appendix B for examples)
No illegal impacts / discrimination have been identified.

Improvement Plan - Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment

Date on which the improvement plan will be reviewed:					
Officer responsible for review of the improvement plan:					
A) Issue Identified and B) resulting equality target	Action Required	Please state: • what plan the target will be incorporated into, e.g. directorate plan, service plan or team plan • Timescale	Officer responsible	How will this target be monitored?	Budget Implications Please notify the relevant service accountant
Stakeholders unable to view the C-SCOPE Marine Plan online	Due to the size of the document, The C-SCOPE/DCF team will make the Marine Plan available as a hard copy at County Hall which can be viewed by appointment.	Team Plan	Ken Buchan		none

These actions/targets will need to be SMART and built into the service planning framework.

Your EqIA will need to be signed off by your Diversity Directorate Group. Contact your Diversity lead for dates:

- Adult Services and Community Services - Glen Gocoul
- Children's Services - Richard Marchant
- Environment Services – Richard Road
- Corporate Resources - Steve Cheeseman
- Chief Executive's Office - Ali Henderson

Lead Officer - Sarah Reeves - Diversity and Inclusion Manager – s.reeves@dorsetcc.gov.uk
01305 221523

Improvement Plan - Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment

Consultation - any consultation exercise should follow guidance provided by the Consultation and Engagement Team, research officers within each directorate, www.dorsetforyou.com/consultationtracker and the 'How to Guide on Participating with equality groups in Dorset'.