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Olympic Delivery Authority Equality Impact Assessment

Eton Dorney Initial Assessment



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Introduction

The purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is analyse the baseline evidence which exists in relation to the impact of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) Eton Dorney project on the equality target groups.

For the purpose of this assessment, the equality target groups includes but is not limited to children, young people, older people, women, transgender people, disabled people, Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME); lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals; and people of different religions and faiths.

The EqIA process contributes towards the ODA's fulfilment of its statutory duties to promote race, gender and disability equality, by ensuring that identified positive impacts are promoted and celebrated; that any potential adverse impacts are identified and highlighted as an issues, which require action.

This assessment will identify:

- The issues which may cause disproportionate impacts to people within the equality target groups;
- If there is a need to explore these impacts in detail through a full impact assessment.

This document is divided into two parts to enable gaps in knowledge to be identified and where possible resolved as follows

- A: background;
- B: research and evidence.

Additional EqIAs are located on the London 2012 website at:

<http://www.london2012.com/about/the-people-delivering-the-games/the-olympic-delivery-authority/oda-priority-themes/equality-impact-assessment.php>

Part A Background

1. Brief description of the programme of work

The Olympic Rowing and Canoe/Kayak (Flat Water) and Paralympic Rowing competition will be held Eton College Rowing Centre (ECRC) at Dorney Lake where Eton College have recently completed the construction of a rowing centre that is already a world-class rowing and flat-water canoeing venue.

Set in a spectacular, 400-acre Nature Conservation parkland near Windsor, Eton College consists of an existing Boathouse, Finish Line Tower, rowing lake and a warm-up channel /return lane.

The main lake is 2,200 metres long, has eight lanes, each 13.5 metres wide and a minimum of 3.5 metres deep. The parallel warm-up channel/return lane is up to five lanes wide and 2.5 metres deep.

The Eton Dorney project includes the design and build of the bridges that will remain in legacy and which are required to meet the Olympic Requirements as set by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the national and international sports governing bodies and other agencies responsible for, or involved in, hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

To meet these requirements, the Eton Dorney project includes the following enhancement work:

- Widening the entry point to the return lane to provide a 50m minimum clear width of water beneath it and widening of the bridge to allow two-way vehicular traffic and segregated pedestrian access over it.
- Construction of a new cut-through at 600m (from the finish line) between the return lane and the main rowing lake including a new vehicle bridge over to match the existing bridges at the cut-through at 1100m and adjacent the start line.
- Droeway improvements to facilitate construction access.
- Perimeter security fencing.

The ECRC will continue to be owned and operated by Eton College in Legacy.

2. Associated programmes of work

This initial EqIA has identified links between the Eton Dorney project and the following London 2012 programmes / projects:

| Associated programme or project | Method for involving or informing relevant programmes or project. Details of work. |
|---|--|
| Inclusive Design Standards and Strategy | Improvements to Eton Dorney Lake are designed in compliance with ODA Inclusive Design Standards. |
| Business Opportunities | Procurement process is being developed in line with the ODA's guidance on equal opportunities statement for access to small and medium sized businesses. |
| Communications | Local Community groups and key stakeholders have been consulted through public forums and leafleting. |
| Community Cohesion | A process of continuous engagement with the District Council of South Bucks and Dorney Parish Council at stakeholder meetings, and a review process of all relevant planning policy from the boroughs have informed the design of the Lake improvements. |
| Community Relations | Design Team, Project Sponsor, and Communications' team coordinate community consultation events to engage the local community with the designers and ensure local 'ownership'/identification with the projects. |
| Environment and Sustainability | The Design has considered the sustainability issues for Games mode and Legacy in designing the venue. |
| Equality and Inclusion | All designs are set to ODA Equalities and Inclusion standards. |
| Health and Safety | The construction of the improvements to Eton Dorney Lake have been designed to minimise risks to health and safety, procuring only 'healthy materials for site construction, and using a risk assessment register areas where risks are highest methods have been developed to mitigate these. |
| HR / Volunteering | LOCOG to provide Games mode overlay design, which includes provision for volunteers. |
| Legal | The Legal team is embedded in the procurement and planning teams' procedure. |
| Marketing / Communications | LOCOG to develop marketing and communication strategies at a later date |
| Procurement | ODA, Delivery Partner, and contractor working closely together on all procurement activities. |
| Security and Logistics | Consultation with the Thames Valley Police and internal Security Team at each design stage has ensured the changes are designed to 'secure by design' standards. |
| Sustainability | Consultation and co-ordination with the ODA's Sustainability team and external sustainability and environmental groups. |
| Ticketing | LOCOG to coordinate ticketing policy at a later date |
| Transport | Improvements to Eton Lake will improve access to the Centre by developing two new bridges to the Island and temporary facilities to ensure continuing access onto the Island during construction and access to the construction site for the Bridges. |

| Associated programme or project | Method for involving or informing relevant programmes or project. Details of work. |
|--|--|
| Venues Team | All designs have been coordinated with LOCOG to provide the overlay requirements during the Games time. This has been achieved through co-ordination meetings and the Client Review Process. |

3. Programme outcomes

The programme outcomes for the Eton Dorney project are:

- Enhanced access of the Eton Dorney Lake for 2012,
- A new cut between the warm-up competition lakes,
- Improved access road, and
- A new access bridge to the competition lake over the practice lake for Games and legacy use.

4. Measuring impact - Existing situation and key issues for consideration

The Eton Dorney project covers the creation of permanent bridges at the Eton College Rowing centre. It is however recognised that the following issues are relevant when considering the design of the bridges and the impact they may have on the equality target groups.

4.1 Inclusion and community cohesion - Key issues for consideration

- There is a strong likelihood that English will not be first language spoken by many people accessing the venue during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, therefore measures are needed to ensure the Eton Dorney lake extensions can be used and navigated easily by local, national and international people alike whose first language is not English or who have literacy problems through use of wayfinding and signage.
- Disabled people are shown to encounter multiple barriers in accessing goods, services and facilities. The implementation of ODA Inclusive Design Strategy and Standards in the design and build the Eton Dorney Lake extensions can assist in removing these barriers.
- Baseline evidence collated for the Olympic Park venues highlights that step free access would provide people with easy and dignified use of the areas by a number of groups, such as older people; some disabled people, including visually impaired and blind people; and wheelchair users.
- The surfaces of walkways will need to be constructed from a material, which does not become slippery even in wet conditions and should be free of trip hazards.
- Lighting levels will have an impact on peoples' ability to identify others, assist lip-reading, and help navigation for people who are visually impaired.

5. Benefits of programme of work

The improvement works to Eton Dorney Lake will contribute to the venue as an entirely accessible, safe, inclusive, and vibrant sports and leisure facility for the sports enthusiasts and local community.

Contributing to local social cohesion, tolerance of differences, economic potential, and environmental sustainability, these factors will contribute to the continuing Legacy of the bridges, which will also deliver a first class sporting and spectator facilities during the Olympic Games.

Part B Evidence and research

1. Consultation

Evidence was taken from the following consultation events where external stakeholders considered the potential impacts. The consultation for the Eton Dorney bridge extension included:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1 st July 2008 | : | Leafleting local residents |
| 8 th July 2008 | : | South Bucks District Council |
| 8 th July 2008 | : | Dorney Parish Council Members |
| Various Occasions | : | Separate consultation with Environment Agency |

The comments received from these events were considered by the project team and where relevant, led to changes in the design.

2. Additional investigations

As this project is focused on the design and build of the bridges, no further investigations or research was conducted to investigate the impact on the equality target groups.

The equality considerations were addressed through implementation of the ODA Inclusive Design Standards to ensure build is accessible to all equality groups.

3. Conclusion and assessment of the impact

The results of this assessment reveal that it is not necessary to proceed to a full impact assessment, as there is no evidence to demonstrate that the Eton Dorney bridge and access road extensions will negatively impact on the equality groups.

Appendix Glossary

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) refers to those in Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese and Other ethnic groups.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

A process for assessing and recording the likely equality impact of an ODA strategy, policy or project on the equality target groups.

Equality target groups

The equality target groups includes but is not limited to children, young people, older people; women, transgender people; disabled people, Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME); lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals; and people of different religions and faiths.

New legislation is extending the older equality rights that cover race, gender and disability to include the newer equality groups of age, sexual orientation, transgender, and religion.

Other people who traditionally experience exclusion or barriers to participation and can be excluded are:

- Homeless people
- Unemployed people
- People employed on a part-time, temporary or casual basis
- Lone parents
- People with caring responsibilities
- People with drug and alcohol problems
- Ex – offenders
- People with unrelated conviction

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)

The body responsible for preparing and staging the 2012 Games.

LOCOG is led by Sebastian Coe (Chair) and Paul Deighton (Chief Executive). It is based in Canary Wharf along with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

The Delivery Partner is also referred to as CLM, which represents the initials of the consortium organisations.

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)

The public body responsible for developing and building the new venues and infrastructure for the Games and their use post 2012.

The ODA has its headquarters in Canary Wharf.