

# Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative



## Equality Impact Assessment Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan August 2010

Support and funding for the Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan have been provided by the following organisations.



This document assesses the potential effects of policies in the Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan to determine whether an equalities impact assessment is required. This process has been undertaken using guidance contained on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/18507/EQIAtool/EQIA2>

Under this guidance there are three main criteria that determine whether an equalities impact assessment is necessary.

## **1. Equalities Impact Assessment Criteria**

*Will individuals have access to, or be denied access to a service or function as a result of your policy or changes you propose to make to existing services or functions?*

The Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan aims to guide sustainable use and development of the area whilst safeguarding important natural, historical and cultural areas. The plan does not make suggestions with relevance to existing public services or functions in the region (e.g. health, transport, housing, education). Opportunities and recommendations are identified in the plan that may potentially increase the provision of transport services to the region if adopted.

*Will the implementation of your policy result in individuals being employed, a change in staffing levels, or a change in terms and conditions, employer or location, either directly or indirectly?*

The policies and guidance contained in the plan encourage sustainable development and use of the marine environment in the Sound of Mull. However, whilst this guidance is aimed at streamlining the process of development in the region, and may potentially result in employment being made available, the plan does not have any relevance to employment conditions.

*Is there a change in the size of a budget, how will this change impact on individuals, will a service be withdrawn, changed or expanded?*

The Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan has been developed as a test pilot project under the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative. The project has had no direct links with any external budgets for other purposes in the region. Policies contained within the document do not relate to any services that are currently provided, therefore will have no impacts upon individuals in the study area.

## **2. Collection of Evidence and Engagement during Plan Production**

### **2.1 Socio Economic Review**

A socio-economic review of the littoral strip on the Sound of Mull was carried out. Part of this review looked at the population around the Firth. It considered a number of factors including:

- Population by Age group
- Employment
- Unemployment
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Qualifications

No data was collected on gender, race, sexual orientation, or religion.

## **2.2 Public Consultation**

Four public events were held around the Sound of Mull. Venues were chosen that enabled all equality groups to attend these events. No specific consultations were held with equality groups. Hard copies of the plan were available through local libraries, or on request from the project officer. The draft plan for consultation was also available from the project website.

## **3. Conclusion**

As the policies in the Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan do not qualify as having effects on individuals under the described criteria in the Scottish Government EQIA toolkit, there is no requirement for Equality Impact Assessment of the Sound of Mull Marine Spatial Plan. Evidence gathering during plan production, and public consultation events did not discriminate against any equality groups in the region.