

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Air Quality Action Plan sets out a series of measures the council will seek to implement over a five year period. It includes 60 proposed new measures which aim to improve air quality in the city, building on the existing 40 projects already in place.</p> <p>The measures aim to bring about improvements across the city but where relevant are focussed in areas where air quality is poorest, and where it can have the greatest impact on residents.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
<p>Measures have been selected based on cost-effectiveness, feasibility, ability to deliver co-benefits, public and political perception, and potential for unintended consequences, including worsening inequalities.</p> <p>Where prudent, individual measures will be the subject of further ESIA’s in the project inception stage once details of how the measures will be implemented are known.</p> <p>This ESIA is provided to assess at a high level the potential equality and safety implications which may come about by adopting the policy itself.</p>	
Potential Positive Impacts	
<p>Air pollution is well established to exacerbate socio-economic inequalities as it impacts the most vulnerable who suffer from co-morbidities including asthma, high blood pressure and COPD. Those youngest and older in society also suffer the most. Age can compound with co-morbidities and make certain individuals particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollution.</p>	

There are pockets of deprivation in the city with 11% of the population living in the top 10% of the most deprived in England. In the most deprived areas of Southampton compared to the least, asthma prevalence is approximately 1.46 times higher and emergency admissions for asthma is approximately 1.92 time higher

The plan principally aims to deliver air quality improvements and is therefore considered to contribute towards levelling out inequalities.

In addition, certain measures have been selected based on their ability to target reductions in inequalities. As one example a Healthcare Engagement project is proposed which will focus on engaging GPs in areas of higher deprivation where more residents are likely to suffer from respiratory conditions and other co-morbidities.

Responsible Service Manager	Steve Guppy
Date	08/11/2022
Approved by Senior Manager	Ian Collins
Date	21/11/22

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	It's possible that the benefits to individuals from measures introduced may be less accessible to certain age demographics i.e., social media posts for a behaviour change campaign may not reach older age groups as readily as younger. Positive impact – reducing health inequalities relating to age.	Adhere to communications policy and use a wide range of communication techniques including leaflet drops, press releases and items in city news etc.
Disability	Those with certain disabilities may not as easily benefit from the plan. For example, those with physical disabilities may not benefit from improvements made to cycling infrastructure ie. health benefits.	Shortlisted measures prioritised partly based on accessibility and unintended socio-economic consequences.
Gender Reassignment	N/A	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A	
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	
Race	N/A	
Religion or	N/A	

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Belief		
Sex	N/A	
Sexual Orientation	N/A	
Community Safety	N/A	
Poverty	N/A	
Health & Wellbeing	Positive impact as discussed.	
Other Significant Impacts	N/A	