

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Title of EqIA:	DEFRA 21-22 Air Quality Grant Scheme Award
Brief description of the Proposal:	<p>Eastleigh Borough Council (the Council) has a statutory duty to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and monitor air quality within the four declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).</p> <p>Cabinet approved the AQAP in February 2020 which aims to improve air quality across the Borough from 2020 to 2025.</p> <p>As part of the AQAP, this funded project will help to improve knowledge and information across certain groups on air quality issues to influence behaviour changes that will result in a reduced exposure to air pollution.</p>

Assessment:

The aim of the funded project, as is also the case for the AQAP, is to improve air quality across the Borough.

This will benefit everyone but particularly those groups which air pollution has the biggest impact on, for example children, which this funded project will accelerate work with.

For all of categories below please consider:

- 1. Does this proposal eliminate unlawful discrimination?**
- 2. Does this proposal advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?**
- 3. Does this proposal foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it?**

Statutory Considerations: Please highlight what impact could there be on people with protected characteristics.

<p>Age:</p>	<p>Children and older people are both particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution.</p> <p>In early life exposure can affect lung function and growth; for older people it can increase the risk of heart problems and stroke.</p> <p>The AQAP, and this funded project, aim to improve air quality across the Borough, with a focus on AQMAs which have been declared on the basis of public exposure.</p> <p>Improvements will reduce exposure for everyone, but the positive effects will be particularly significant for age groups vulnerable to air pollution, contributing to reducing inequality.</p>
<p>Disability:</p>	<p>People with existing health conditions are particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution.</p> <p>Exposure to poor air quality can exacerbate symptoms of asthma and cardiovascular disease. It also increases the risk of heart problems and stroke for those with existing cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.</p> <p>The AQAP, and this funded project, aim to improve air quality across the Borough, with a focus on AQMAs which have been declared on the basis of public exposure.</p> <p>Improvements will reduce exposure for everyone, but the positive effects will be particularly significant for those with health conditions which make them vulnerable to air pollution, contributing to reducing inequality.</p>
<p>Gender:</p>	<p>The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.</p>

Gender reassignment:

The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.

<p>Pregnancy and Maternity:</p>	<p>Exposure to poor air quality can affect a foetus within the first few weeks, with evidence emerging for resulting low birth weights and premature birth.</p> <p>Therefore, pregnant women are also particularly susceptible to air pollution.</p> <p>As with other vulnerable groups, the aim of the AQAP, and this funded project, is to improve air quality will have positive effects particularly significant for them, contributing to reducing inequality.</p>
<p>Race:</p>	<p>The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.</p>
<p>Religion or belief:</p>	<p>The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation:</p>	<p>The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership:</p>	<p>The Strategy is unlikely to have a specific impact on this characteristic group.</p>
<p>Non statutory considerations: Please highlight what impact could there be on people experiencing social deprivation.</p>	
<p>Social deprivation:</p>	<p>Although air pollution can be harmful to everyone, people who live in more polluted areas are more affected.</p> <p>This tends to include low-income communities as they are</p>

	<p>more likely to live in areas with poorer air quality due to lower value properties often being located in more congested areas.</p> <p>They are also more likely to fit other criteria which indicate poorer health in general, making them more susceptible.</p>
<p>What engagement or consultation has been carried out?</p>	<p>Extensive consultation was undertaken during the development of the AQAP which can be seen here.</p> <p>This remains relevant for the air quality grant scheme award as it also aims to improve air quality across the Borough from 2020 to 2025, aligning with the AQAP.</p> <p>Internal consultation was also undertaken in the submission of a bid with Council colleagues in Finance, Legal, Pollution Control and Sustainable Transport.</p>
<p>What could reduce any adverse impact on these groups?</p>	<p>Although poor air quality has an effect on everyone, at all stages of life, the scale of this depends on factors such as the level of exposure and susceptibility to the health effects.</p> <p>The aim of the AQAP, and this funded project, is to improve air quality across the Borough, this will benefit everyone but particularly those groups who are most affected by poor air quality.</p> <p>In this way, the AQAP, and this funded project, will work to reduce inequality and adverse impacts on vulnerable groups but to achieve this as effectively as possible the AQAP also contains actions targeted at these vulnerable groups.</p>

Action Plan

The EQiA Action Plan developed for the AQAP is identified below.

Relevant areas have been highlighted for which this funded project will help to address.

Activity	Outcome	Timeframe	Person responsible
Engagement and targeted awareness raising with vulnerable age groups	Projects and campaigns in schools raise awareness and result in behaviour changes to benefit children. Integration of air quality messages into Health & Wellbeing engagement campaigns raises awareness in older people	Annual targets for schools' projects are held within the AQAP Campaigns scheduled throughout AQAP period 2020 – 2025	Pollution Control Officer Health and Wellbeing Team Hampshire County Council Travel Planners
Engagement and targeted awareness raising with people with existing health conditions	Integration of air quality messages into Health & Wellbeing engagement campaigns raises awareness in people with existing health conditions. Work with local health professionals and health awareness groups to raise awareness and encourage behaviour changes to benefit people with existing health conditions	Throughout AQAP implementation 2020 – 2025.	Pollution Control Officer Health and Wellbeing Team
Target actions to benefit those experiencing social deprivation	Actions targeted at areas with poorest air quality and most congestion, which provides maximum	Throughout AQAP implementation 2020 – 2025 Community	Pollution Control Officer

	benefit to those people living in these areas. Monitoring is focussed on these areas and additional monitoring carried out at locations of community concern. Achieved through AQAP measures as a whole, which are focussed on designated Air Quality Management Areas	monitoring projects scheduled for 2020 and 2021	
Where appropriate, carry out further consultation and EqlAs for individual actions to inform best practice for their implementation	Ensuring continuing consideration for vulnerable groups throughout the AQAP period	As required during the implementation of the AQAP 2020 – 2025	The Environment Team

Lead Officer:	Mike Culver, Senior Strategy Development Specialist (Environment)
Manager:	Diccon Bright, Strategic Planning Manager
Corporate Director:	Natalie Wigman [sign-off tbc]
Date completed:	02/03/22

