

Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As an authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy	Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)
Lead Officer	Theo Lamptey
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Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

It is a statutory requirement to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to outline the actions the Council will be taking to improve the local air quality in Barking and Dagenham.

Air pollution is a public health and environmental issue which is linked to the development of chronic and respiratory illness. There is often a strong correlation with equalities issues because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas. Local air pollution affects all populations; however, it also disproportionately affects the young, old and those with existing health conditions (e.g., respiratory and heart).

Therefore, the action plan (2020 – 2025) have developed a list of measures to engage with stakeholders and partners which can make a difference to air quality in the borough, thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the borough. Generally, improve air quality, reduce exposures and raise awareness of air quality.

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities?
 Look at what you know. What does your research tell you?

Please state which data sources you have used for your research in your answer below

Consider:

- National & local data sets
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.
- It is Council policy to consider the impact services and policy developments could have on residents who are socio-economically disadvantaged. There is space to consider the impact below.

Demographics
 Data Sources:

- LBBB air quality monitoring data; 2 air quality monitoring stations/locations provide local air quality data that is representative of background air pollution in Barking and

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Dagenham. The pollutants that are monitored are Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter and Sulphur Dioxide. These are pollutants that are required to be monitored and regulated by Barking and Dagenham for the purposes of reporting to the Greater London Authority and Defra on an annual basis in respect to trying to achieve the National Air Quality Objectives.

- National Air Quality Strategy: The National Air Quality Strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK. The National Air Quality Objectives are health-based objectives whereby meeting or achieving the standards is related to the direct benefits to public health and are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect our environment.
- National and Industry based articles and academia; Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) (www.Gov.uk) advises the government on all matters concerning the health effects of air pollutants. The National Air Quality Objectives are set based on expert advice from panels of medical and scientific advisors.

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	X			Positive; Lower air pollution improves public health from reduced exposure	Negative impacts minimised by working towards reducing pollution levels to the National Air Quality Objectives which are health-related statistical objectives Barking and Dagenham has the 6 th highest rate of asthma related hospital admissions in London. The AQAP will be tackling health inequalities.
Age	X			Positive; Lower air pollution reduces young and older generations' exposure	All ages are impacted by poor air quality but the young and the old are some of the most vulnerable. The AQAP implementation will have a positive impact for the elderly who are also more sensitive to air pollution leading to less care including hospitalisation.
Disability	X			Positive; Lower air pollution reduces the negative health effects from air pollution on those with existing health disabilities	The plan will benefit people with existing medical disabilities such as heart and lung conditions. There is no evidence to suggest there is a causal connection between the effects of air pollution and other disabled residents. There will be less hospital admissions and need for health care for those affected.
Gender reassignment		X		N/A	There is no evidence found to show that the action plan would have a potential impact on this characteristic

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Marriage and civil partnership		X		N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that the effects of air quality are determined by marriage and civil partnership
Pregnancy and maternity	X			Positive; Lower air pollution reduces the negative health effects on pregnant women and unborn children	There is evidence to suggest that air pollution leads to an increased risk of premature birth and low birth rates. Negative impacts will be minimised by reducing the concentration of poor air quality on those affected.
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)		X		N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that the effects of poor air quality are determined by race
Religion or belief		X		N/A	There is no evidence that suggest the effects of poor air quality are determined by religion or belief
Sex		X		N/A	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic
Sexual orientation		X		N/A	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic
Socio-economic Disadvantage	X			Reducing air pollution will have positive impact for all parts of the community including those in disadvantaged socio-economic areas	Multiple studies have shown that socio-economically deprived areas are disproportionately negatively affected greater by air pollution than affluent areas.
Any community issues identified for this location?		X		N/A	No community issues identified

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g., on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

If you have already undertaken some consultation, please include:

- Any potential problems or issues raised by the consultation.
- What actions will be taken to mitigate these concerns

The draft AQAP was devised and contributed to by internal departments in the Council including Public Health and Environmental Protection Unit/Environmental Health. Following this, the draft AQAP went out to public/external on-line consultation from 01 October to 30 November 2020 on the Council's OneBorough Voice.

The link to the public consultation was included into the monthly Business newsletter in October 2020.

Issues raised by the consultation.

- PUBLIC: (MAINLY FOCUSED ON.... GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, RIVER ROAD AND A13 AREAS FOR DUST AND HEAVY TRAFFIC, THE A13 AND TRAFFIC LEVELS, CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE (LACK OF IT), NO BORIS BIKES, DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN SPACE WITHIN, OVER DEVELOPMENT, IDLING VEHICLES ESPECIALLY AT SCHOOLS, 'THE SCHOOL RUN' DOMINATED BY CARS, NEED FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS, CITY OF LONDON MARKETS MAKING TRAFFIC WORSE, MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDED)
- GLA: (ASKED TO CREATE TWO NEW ACTIONS: 1 FOR WATERWAY EMISSIONS (BOATS SHIPS ETC), 2 FOR 'CAR FREE DAY' 22ND SEPT' EACH YEAR AND COMM'S AROUND THIS). THIS HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED). GLA ALSO ASKED FOR SLIGHT TWEAKS TO SOME ACTIONS BUT INSIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Actions taken to mitigate concerns in consultation:

- consultation feedback to relevant portfolio councillors
- internal meetings will be arranged with relevant departments to discuss mitigating consultation concerns.
- many of the concerns are already partly mitigated by the actions within the AQAP and by departmental responsibilities.

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented? <i>These actions should be developed using the information gathered in Section 1 and 2 and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.</i>		
Action	By when?	By who?
Responsible departments will be providing regular update and progress of delivery action as required at the AQAP Steering Group Meetings.	Every quarter starting January 2021	Environmental Protection Officer/Team
Providing Update to Portfolio Holder's Meeting	Quarterly	Service Manager

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or appropriate committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the wider community.

Take some time to summarise your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Strategy Team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact
<p>The report to cabinet outline updates to the delivery of the AQAP. Within the reports, details have been provided regarding the negative health effects associated to the regulated pollutants that the Council is responsible for. Health impact data has been provided by Public Health and by the Environmental Protections team.</p> <p>Approval of the AQAP by Council will have a positive impact on the local communities in general, those in certain age ranges (particularly the young and the elder generations), those with disabilities (existing medical conditions that are determined as being a disability: e.g., heart and lung disabilities only), women who are pregnant and for unborn children, people who live in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>There is a neutral impact to those in the Barking and Dagenham communities who have undergone gender reassignment, those in marriage and civil partnerships, those in any race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers), people of any sex and people of any sexual</p>

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orientation.

There are also no particular communities that have been identified in Barking and Dagenham as being negatively impacted by the implementation of the AQAP.

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Divisional Director who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. project sponsor, head of service)	Date
Andy Opie	Operational Director Enforcement & Community Safety	21 January 2021