

Southend on Sea City Council -

Equality Analysis

1. Background Information

1.1 Name of policy

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP2) 2023-2027.

1.2 Department:

Neighbourhoods and Environment

1.3 Service Area:

Regulatory Services within Public Protection

1.4 Date Equality Analysis undertaken:

14 November 2022

1.5 Names and roles of staff carrying out the Equality Analysis:

Name	Role	Service Area
Elizabeth Georgeou	Head of Regulatory Services	Regulatory Services
Sheira Fox	Service Manager Regulatory Services	Regulatory Services

1.6 What are the aims or purpose of the policy that is subject to the EA?

The Council is statutorily required to develop an AQAP when it declares an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The Council declared its second AQMA and therefore was statutorily required to develop an AQAP to take measures to improve the air quality in that area. The adoption of the AQAP 2023-27 also aims by extension to improve the air quality within the AQMA1 and the whole of the Southend-on-Sea City Council area.

1.7 What are the main activities relating to the policy,

The AQAP details measures that it will implement across all the different Council services within the Southend-on-Sea City Council area to try to improve air quality for its residents and businesses. The AQAP aims to:

- Ensure compliance with EU limit standards for nitrogen dioxide, which have been incorporated in UK law.
- To improve public knowledge and understanding on the issue of air pollution and educate on steps which can be taken to reduce individual exposure.

Those most likely to be affected by air pollution are people with asthma, lung disease, COPD or cardiovascular disease. There is also susceptibility to air pollution in certain life stages such as unborn babies (pregnant woman) children (some children are particularly vulnerable i.e. those with underlying chronic lung condition and cystic fibrosis) and older adults. Taking this into consideration, based on the resident profile of the two wards the measures contained within the AQAP 2023-2027 would have the most positive impact on children aged 0-13 and adults aged 50+ and those with respiratory health issues.

2. Evidence Base

2.1 Please list sources of information, data, results of consultation exercises that could or will inform the EA.

Source of information	Reason for using (eg. likely impact on a particular group).
Ward Location Prittlewell	Resident detail on Prittlewell Ward which is within the AQMA2
Ward Location Victoria	Resident detail on Victoria Ward which is within the AQMA2.
The Air Quality A Briefing for Directors of Public Health March 2017	Details risks to health of exposure to air pollution
JSNA 2019	Impact on Southend residents of air pollution
The Environment Act 1995	Statutory requirement to declare Air Quality Management Area where air quality objectives are exceeded, and adoption of air quality action plan to improve air pollution.
Weuve, J., et al. (2016). Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution in Relation to Progression in Physical Disability among Older Adults. Source: Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution in Relation to Progression in Physical Disability	Impact of air pollution on those with chronic disease.

among Older Adults - PubMed (nih.gov)	
Briefing to Association of Directors of Public Health: Air Pollution – A Key Public Health Issue. Source: Air quality: a briefing for directors of public health Local Government Association	Effect on low income and ethnic minority groups
Pollution and Poverty (imperial.ac.uk)	Link between poverty and pollution socio economic groups.
Client Earth Communications 23 November 2016 Source: UK in top three for air pollution deaths in Europe ClientEarth	Cites UK as in top three for air pollution deaths in Europe.

Please Note: reports/data/evidence can be added as appendices to the EA.

2.2 Identify any gaps in the information and understanding of the impact of your policy, service function or restructure. Indicate in your action plan (section 5) whether you have identified ways of filling these gaps.

3. Analysis

3.1 The AQAP is a series of measures designed to improve the health of individuals living within the AQMA2. As with the AQMA1, the AQMA2 was declared because the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels exceeded the annual objective for NO₂.

3.2 Poor air quality is a public health issued, NO₂ has a known harmful effect on human health and the environment. Road Transport is the major source of air pollution in the UK, leading to premature deaths in the UK each year as a result of exposure to Nitrogen Dioxide and particulate matter. Client Earth challenged the government reporting that in 2016 the UK was in the top three for air pollution deaths in Europe. The JSNA 2019 reported that in Southend 6 in 10 deaths were attributable to air pollution. Elevated levels and / or long-term exposure to air pollution can lead to more serious symptoms and conditions affecting human health. This mainly affects the respiratory system, but in the longer term can also lead to more serious conditions such as heart disease and cancer. The most at risk from the impact of air pollution includes the elderly, children and those with heart and respiratory disease such as asthma and bronchitis.

- 3.3 In the AQMA2 in both Prittlewell and Victoria Wards the % of under 16s is higher than the average across Southend, and in Prittlewell Ward there is a higher % of those over 65. Residents in both Prittlewell and Victoria Wards report themselves are being in poor health, at a higher % than the average across Southend. Imperial College London highlights the link between poverty and air pollution that those living in areas of high deprivation show a greater vulnerability, which is especially pronounced amongst the BAME residents within those deprived communities. Both Prittlewell and Victoria are listed either within the top 10% in one of the deprivation measures across the Country and in the top 20% most deprived areas in the East of England.
- 3.4 The AQAP2 aims to improve the air quality within AQMA 2 and by extension the residents of the AQMA1 and the rest of the residents of Southend-on-Sea City Council, and whilst there may be positive effects on some protected characteristics from delivering the AQAP2 irrespective of protected characteristics with the Equality Act.

Initial assessment of a perceived impact of the policy, service function or restructure. The impact can be positive or negative (or in some circumstances both), none or unclear:	Impact - Please tick				
	Yes			No	Unclear
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Age (including looked after children)	Yes				
Disability	Yes				
Gender Reassignment	Yes				
Marriage and civil partnership	Yes				
Pregnancy and maternity	Yes				
Race	Yes				
Religion or belief	Yes				
Sex	Yes				
Sexual orientation	Yes				

Carers	Yes				
Socio-economic	Yes				

Descriptions of the protected characteristics are available in the guidance or from: [EHRC - protected characteristics](#)

3.2 Where an impact has been identified above, outline what the impact of the

	Potential Impact
Age	There is a higher % of under 16s in both wards and higher % of those above 65 in Prittlewell. The adoption of an AQAP 2023-2027 will have a positive effect on those within the protected age groups.
Disability	Air pollution appears to increase the risk of several chronic diseases that contribute to the progression of disability. In multivariable-adjusted analyses, higher long-term NOx exposure was associated with significantly faster progression in disability. This data joins a growing body of evidence which suggests that exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution may accelerate aging-related declines in health. The adoption of an AQAP 2023-2027 will improve the air quality in this group.
Gender reassignment	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 applies equally to all residents of Southend irrespective of gender reassignment.
Marriage and civil partnership	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 applies equally to

	all residents of Southend irrespective of marriage / civil partnership.
Pregnancy and maternity	A positive impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 applies equally to all residents of Southend irrespective of pregnancy, maternity and paternity.
Race	There is a higher % of BAME residents in both Prittlewell and Victoria Wards. The adoption of an AQAP 2023 – 2027 will have a positive effect on those with a protected Race.
Religion or belief	There is a higher % of Muslims and Hindu's in both Wards, and a higher % of Sikhs in Victoria than the average across Southend. The adoption of an AQAP 2023 – 2027 No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan applies equally to all residents of Southend irrespective of religion / faith.
Sex	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 applies equally to all residents of Southend irrespective of sex
Sexual orientation	No differential impact has been identified on the grounds of this protected characteristic. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 applies equally to all residents of Southend irrespective of sexual orientation
Carers	There is a higher number of carers in Prittlewell Ward than the SCC average. The adoption of the AQAP 2023 – 2027 will have a positive effect on those with protection religions
Socio-economic	Air pollution has a disproportionate impact on low-income and ethnic minority groups. The most deprived 10% of areas in England are subject to

	41% high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide from transport and industry than average. The adoption of an AQAP 2023 – 2027 will improve the air quality for that group.
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4. Community Impact

4.1 You may also need to undertake an analysis of the potential direct or indirect impact on the wider community when introducing a new/revised policy, service function or restructure.

N/A

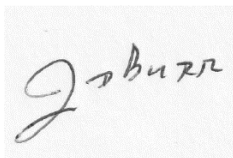
5. Equality Analysis Action Plan

5.1 Use the below table to set out what action will be taken to:

Planned action	Objective	Who	When	How will this be monitored (e.g. via team/service plans)
Measure process against the Action Plan	Improve air quality	Elizabeth Georgeou	Air Quality Steering Group Annual Status Report to DEFRA	Air Quality Steering Group Annual Status Report to DEFRA



Signed (lead officer):



Signed (Director):

Once signed, please send a copy of the completed EA (and, if applicable, CCIA)

to Sarah Brown Sarahbrown@southend.gov.uk.