

Equality Impact Assessment Form

A copy of this form is available on the Intranet.

Screening

Name of strategy, project or policy:

AIR QUALITY POLICY

Officer completing assessment:

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1. What is the main purpose of the strategy, project or policy?

To set out the way in which the Environmental Health Service will promote and enforce the protection and improvement of air quality in Rossendale.

2. List the main activities of the project, policy (for strategies list the main policy areas)

- a) The enforcement of powers and duties in relation to domestic, commercial and industrial activities in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy.
- b) Tackling pollution caused by road transport in conjunction with transport authorities.
- c) Developing innovative ways of engaging local stakeholders to change their behaviour and support proposed measures to improve air quality locally.
- d) Providing information and advice on how people can contribute and help themselves.
- e) Organising and making available information and data in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations.
- f) Adopting a proactive approach to reduction of greenhouse gases as a means of mitigating the effects of climate change.
- g) Promoting consideration of air quality issues as a part of the Development Control process.

3. Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy, project or policy?

All people, businesses, organisations and communities within Rossendale.

4. Use the table below to tick:

- (a) Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- (b) Where you think that the strategy, project, policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relations within equality target groups.

		Positive Impact – it could benefit	Negative Impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
Gender	Women	√		See below
	Men	√		
Race	Asian or Asian British people	√		
	Black or black British people	√		
	People of mixed race	√		
	Irish people	√		
	White people	√		
	Chinese people and other minority ethnic communities not listed above	√		
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	√		
Sexuality	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals	√		
Gender Identity	Transgender people	√		
Age	Older people (60+)	√		

	Younger people (17-25), and children	√		
Belief	Faith groups *	√		
Equal opportunities and/or improved relations eg Rural		√		

Outdoor air quality affects everyone. This policy is aimed at improving air quality and, as such, it will benefit everyone.

Inequalities in the distribution of pollutant concentrations can be observed. Generally people in areas of higher deprivation tend to be affected by higher levels of pollution, especially NO₂ and particulates associated with road transport in urban areas. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has objectives for achievement across the country by 2010 in relation to specific pollutants. Policies being adopted will result in concentration reductions across all deprivation deciles but, because the highest values tend to be in the most deprived deciles, many are not reduced below stated objectives by 2010.

Lower concentrations are more commonly observed in rural rather than urban areas, with the exception of Ozone where the opposite is the case.

More deprived communities receive larger contributions from point sources of pollution than less deprived communities for NO₂, PM₁₀ and SO₂.

Certain parts of the community, children and the elderly, tend to be more susceptible to certain health effects. For example, the higher rates of asthma reported amongst children in Rossendale, may be exacerbated by poor air quality, resulting not only in distress but also higher health costs. There is generally a higher proportion of children in the most deprived deciles where higher concentrations of NO₂ and PM₁₀ tend to be observed. This leads to a greater level of inequality than observed for the population as a whole.

This policy aims to tackle and reduce air pollution and improve air quality, thereby reducing health and environmental inequalities.

Action in relation to climate change gases will similarly, disproportionately improve the environment for the more deprived parts of the community who are more likely to be adversely affected by the effects of climate change.

Notes:

* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

5 If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:

Legal? YES NO

(i.e. it is not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation)

Intended? YES NO

Level of impact HIGH LOW

If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.

6 a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?

No negative impacts are anticipated.

Explain how:

a) Could you improve the strategy, project or policy's positive impact?

The whole of the policy is anticipated to create a positive impact.

Explain how:

You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section two.

7 If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does?

The whole policy is intended to create a positive impact

How?

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send one copy to the Head of Human Resources.

Signed: ...Philip Mepham

Date:17th November 2007