

RMBC - Equality Analysis Form for Commissioning, Decommissioning, Decision making, Projects, Policies, Services, Strategies or Functions (CDDPPSSF)

Under the Equality Act 2010 Protected characteristics are Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity.	
Name of policy, service or function. If a policy, list any associated policies:	Outline Business Case to DEFRA describing proposals to improve Air Quality in Rotherham.
Name of service and Directorate	Community Safety and Street Scene, Regeneration and Environment
Lead manager	Tom Smith
Date of Equality Analysis (EA)	22/11/18
Names of those involved in the EIA (Should include at least two other people)	
<p>Aim/Scope</p> <p>The National Air Quality Plan, published by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in July 2017, identified those Local Authorities with areas that are not compliant with the European Union (EU) Ambient Air Quality Directive were identified through national air quality modelling. 28 Local Authorities were included ('mandated') in the plan, including Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and Sheffield City Council (SCC). RMBC and SCC were 'jointly mandated' on the basis that the Parkway in both Sheffield and Rotherham was identified as being non-compliant.</p> <p>This has placed Rotherham and Sheffield under a legal duty to improve the Borough's air quality by reducing NO₂ emissions below the legal limits in the shortest possible time. The Councils are required to submit a proposal to Government (an Outline Business Case) to demonstrate how they will reduce emissions in the shortest possible timescale, by 31st December 2018.</p> <p>A feasibility study has been undertaken to locally assess air quality across Rotherham and Sheffield, to identify key locations where air quality is above the EU limits and to identify and assess mitigating actions to improve air quality at these locations. The findings of the study indicate that Sheffield will need to introduce a Category C charging zone (covering non-compliant buses, taxis, HGVs, LGVs), within (but including) the inner ring-road of the city centre, in order to achieve legal compliance by 2021. The study concludes however that a charging zone is not required in Rotherham for the Borough to achieve compliance.</p> <p>The study identifies that measures will need to be taken at four specific locations across Rotherham to achieve compliance. The proposals in Rotherham therefore focus on changes to speed limits on the Rotherham section of the Parkway, improvements to the Rotherham bus fleet and the routing of buses on Rawmarsh Hill and Fitzwilliam Road, and the restriction of HGVs on Wortley Road.</p> <p>These options are proposed to be accompanied by a number of additional measures, which aim to support businesses to improve their fleet and improve air quality, such as targeted support to upgrade vehicles.</p>	

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What equality information is available? Include any engagement undertaken and identify any information gaps you are aware of. What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

This EIA is being undertaken prior to public consultation about proposals to improve air quality across Rotherham. Equality information will be sought as part of the proposed consultation in order to identify any gaps.

The need for monitoring arrangements will be assessed following consultation, and addressed as part of the implementation of mitigating measures following sign-off of the Full Business Case, in 2019, by Government.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

A full consultation on the proposals will take place from early 2019, which will aim to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.

Engagement undertaken with staff about the implications on service users (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

A full consultation on the proposals will take place from early 2019, which will aim to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.

The Analysis

How do you think the Policy/Service meets the needs of different communities and groups?

In Rotherham, it is estimated that poor air quality directly contributes to over 100 deaths per year and affects the quality of life for people across the Borough. An Air Quality Health Inequalities Impact Assessment for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Ratcliffe and Basu, 2014) found levels of ambient air pollution which are likely to negatively impact on health outcomes in Rotherham. In particular ambient air pollution in Rotherham is negatively impacting outcomes relating to Coronary Heart Disease and Circulatory Disease in the under 75 age groups and the percentage of Low Weight Births. In addition, childhood asthma is specifically attributable to traffic related air pollution, and increases the probability of hospital admissions, visits to A&E and respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

Air pollution is a significant social justice issue as it is often the poorer and more vulnerable communities that are most exposed to and suffer the consequences of harmful air, in particular the young and old, the sick and lower income groups. Further, poor air quality is also an economic issue: the illnesses caused by poor air quality affect people of working age and we know this causes significant time off work and early retirement. Whilst this is difficult to quantify, studies by the Lancet have found that in low-to-medium income countries, air pollution reduces Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by up to 2% and drives up demand and costs on healthcare services.

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Improvements to air quality will therefore have a positive effect on outcomes for health and wellbeing within a number of communities and groups.

Analysis of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service:

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Group? Does the Service/Policy provide any improvements/remove barriers?

The proposed mitigating actions to improve air quality have been carefully considered to balance the need to improve air quality, with any potential economic impacts on the wider community.

The measures proposed do not include charging for non-compliant vehicles, and the economic impact on Rotherham as a Borough is therefore limited.

The council is however cogniscent of the potential impact of Sheffield's proposals for a Category C clean air zone, on Rotherham residents travelling into and out of Sheffield. This has the potential to impact upon Rotherham's small businesses and taxis and private hire vehicles. With that in mind the council is proposing a number of additional actions to support business to upgrade to less polluting vehicles.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?

It is currently assessed that the proposed mitigations will have no negative affect on community relations.

Please list any **actions and targets** by Protected Characteristic that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment and ensure that they are added into your service plan.

Website Key Findings Summary: To meet legislative requirements a summary of the Equality Analysis needs to be completed and published.

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Equality Analysis Action Plan

Time Period 2019/2020

Manager: Tom Smith

Service Area: Community Safety and Street Scene

Tel: 01709 822902

Title of Equality Analysis:

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic.

List all the Actions and Equality Targets identified

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Undertake a full consultation about proposed mitigations to improve air quality across Rotherham, and inform a Full Business Case to Government in 2019.	A, D, S, GR, RE, RoB, SO, C	05/19
Name Of Director who approved Plan	Paul Woodcock	Date

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

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Website Summary – Please complete for publishing on our website and append to any reports to Elected Members SLT or Directorate Management Teams

Completed equality analysis	Key findings	Future actions