



# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Partial Assessment Form

<b>Policy, practice, function or project assessed</b>	Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Susan Walford
<b>Team</b>	Adam Finch, Iain Green, Paul Williams, Andrew Francis
<b>Start date of assessment</b>	25/08/09
<b>Completion of assessment</b>	01/09/09

Please use this form to record your findings in relation to the assessment of an existing policy, function, service or practice.

## **A. POLICY, PRACTICE, FUNCTION OR PROJECT TO BE ASSESSED**

### **A1. Please describe what are the main aims, objectives, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy or function?**

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) highlights measures designed to improve air quality in South Cambridgeshire, particularly within its Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and sets out how we are going to implement and monitor these measures.

### **A2. Is this policy or function associated with any other Council policy or priority?**

The Plan is associated with various other Council policies and priorities, including the Air Quality Strategy, which addresses air quality across the district and not just in poor quality areas. The Plan also links to the Local Development Framework, where policies relating to air quality will be covered within a Supplementary Planning Document. The AQAP also contributes towards meeting the Council Aim of ensuring that South Cambs is a safe and healthy place to live.

### **A3. Who are the intended beneficiaries/stakeholders of the policy or function? How many people are affected and from what sections of the community?**

The intended beneficiaries of the Plan are those residents that live within the boundary of the Air Quality Management Area (including around 100 homes, a school and the Blackwell Traveller Site).

### **A4. Is the policy/function corporate and far-reaching?**

The Plan is a joint piece of work by Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council with the participation of Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **A5. Are you expecting to make any significant change to the policy or service in the near future? If so, please give details.**

The Air Quality Action Plan is a five-year plan with progress due to be reported annually.

### **A6. Is this a new or existing policy or function?**

The AQAP is a new Plan, required by legislation to be adopted within 12-18 months of the Air Quality Management Area Order declared by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2008

**B. EVIDENCE/ DATA and CONSULTATION**

It is important to consider all information that is available in determining whether the policy or function could have a differential impact. Please attach examples of monitoring information, research or consultation reports.

**B1. What monitoring or other information do you have about relevant target groups, which will show the impact of the policy or function?**

Predominantly it is air quality that is monitored, as legislation dictates the levels that will result in an Air Quality Management Area. However, since the boundaries of the Management Area are clearly defined, we know which of our residents are affected by poor air quality. These residents specifically include the Blackwell Traveller site and the Orchard Park school.

**B2. Have you compared the data you have with the equality profile of the local population? What does it show?**

As noted in B1, a Traveller Site and School are sited within the AQMA, which is the key focus for the AQAP. Under consultation at the moment is the Gypsy and Traveller DPD, which includes a proposal for the Blackwell site to revert to its original status as a transit site. This will mean that residents on site will not be exposed to relevant periods of poor air quality at this location.

**B3. Have you identified any improvements or other changes that could be made from monitoring the data?**

The Council continues to monitor air quality at various places throughout the AQMA. The resulting data is used to model air quality throughout the area, including at the Traveller Site and school.

**B4. Have you consulted or involved external stakeholders about the policy or function? If so, what were their views?**

MRUK were commissioned to carry out some public workshops with a cross section of the community. They also carried out a stakeholder workshop with a variety of members from the involved authorities along with the Highways Agency. Themes from these workshops were similar and tended to focus on issues directed from County level including the guided busway and widening of the A14. They also tended to be focused on the Cambridge City area.

**B5. Have you undertaken any consultation with staff to assess their perception of any impacts of the policy or function? If so, what has been learnt from them?**

Extensive joint working has taken place between the authorities involved. In addition to this, key officers within SCDC have been consulted over the Plan.

**B6. Please provide information about any other consultation, research, or involvement undertaken in relation to this impact assessment.**

EqIAs from other authorities have been studied.

<b>C1. IMPACT OF THE POLICY OR FUNCTION</b>		
Assess the potential impact on each of the equality strands/groups. The impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you assess a negative impact for any of the groups then you will need to assess whether that impact is low, medium or high. Refer to the evidence you use.		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT</b>	<b>Nature of Impact</b> (Positive, Neutral, Adverse)	<b>Extent of Impact</b> (Low, Medium, High)
<b>GENDER:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on men and women	Neutral	
Air quality issues have no perceived differential impacts on men and women.		
<b>RACE:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different race/ethnic groups	Positive	
There is a Traveller site within the AQMA. Improving air quality will improve quality of life for all people within the AQMA.		
<b>DISABILITY:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on disabled people	Positive	
There may be some residents within the AQMA with bronchial type complaints. Improving air quality will improve quality of life for all people within the AQMA.		
<b>AGE:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different age groups	Positive	
Older people and children potentially could be at higher risk of becoming asthmatic. Improving air quality will improve quality of life for all people within the AQMA.		
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION:</b> potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual people	Neutral	
There is no identified impact on people of different sexual orientation.		
<b>RELIGION/FAITH:</b> Identify the potential impact the policy on different religious/faith groups	Neutral	
There is no identified impact on people of different religions and faiths		
<b>OTHER – Drivers</b>	Positive	
Improving air quality in the AQMA will have a positive impact on the drivers that use the A14.		

PLEASE NOTE: Following completion of the section above, if the nature of the impact is adverse then you may need to proceed to a full equality impact assessment.

**C2. Could you minimise or remove any adverse or potential impact that is high, medium or low significance, in advance of a full impact assessment? Explain how.**

No adverse impacts have been identified.

**C3. Does the policy or function actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations? Or could changes be made so that it does so?**

The Air Quality Action Plan intends to improve quality of life for all sections of the community. Within its wider scope it incorporates schemes such as car sharing and improvement of cycleways.

**C4. Please provide any further information, qualitative or quantitative that does not fit into the questions but you feel has a likely impact on this assessment.**

<b>D. CONCLUSIONS</b>			
<b>D1. Was there sufficient data to complete the partial assessment?</b>	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “NO”, what arrangements are in place for evidence gathering and continuing with the assessment?</b>
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>D2. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have an adverse impact (medium or high impact) on one or more target group?</b>	Yes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “YES”, will you proceed to a full assessment? If so, what arrangements are in place to carry out the full assessment?</b>
	No?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>D3. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have a neutral or positive impact on equalities?</b>	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “YES”, have you included proposals in the Action Plan to further improve the impact of the policy or function on equalities?</b> Yes  <b>Do you plan to review the service or policy again in future to assess whether there has been any change? If so, when?</b> To be reported on annually, and reviewed every 5 years
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Has the Equalities Steering Group and the Consultative Forum reviewed the assessment? If so what were their comments?</b> No
<b>D4. Do you have any other conclusions/outcomes from the partial assessment?</b>			

**ACTION PLAN for enhancing existing practice**

Recommendation/ issue to be addressed	Planned Milestone	Planned completion of milestone (date)	Officer Responsible	Progress
Ongoing monitoring of air quality within the Air Quality Management Area. The results of this monitoring and the progress made on implementing the action plan will be reported annually.	December 2010		SW / AFi	

**RESOURCES - Does the above action plan require any additional resources?**

No additional resources will be required.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING - Please give your plans for monitoring the achievement of the above actions.**

Functions such as the guided busway, and possible widening of the A14, should be subject to their own Equality Impact Assessments. As these are functions for Cambridgeshire County Council and the Highway Agency respectively, these authorities would be responsible for completing them.

<b>SIGN OFF: The officers below confirm that this partial assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's guidance</b>		
Signature of Lead Officer		Date:
Signature of Corporate Manager or Chief Officer:		Date:

Please retain the original form on your service area and return a copy of the completed form to the Equality & Diversity Officer.