

Community Impact Assessment

(Incorporating equality analysis and health considerations)

V2.0

Name of Matter Assessed:

Consultation Draft of the Northampton Low Emission Strategy (NLES)

Who will make the decision:
(e.g. Cabinet/Board etc)

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the matter:

The development of the NLES has been led by Regulatory Services with input from:

- Planning
- Northamptonshire County Council Highways and Transport
- Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership
- Northamptonshire Public Health and Wellbeing
- LGSS Procurement

What is it:

A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a document that summarises how the council has had due regard to the public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010) in decision-making. This document can also be used to consider health and narrowing health inequalities (Health and Care Act 2012)

When to assess:

A CIA should be carried out when you are changing, removing or introducing a new service, policy or function. The assessment should be proportionate; a major financial decision will need to be assessed more closely than a minor policy change.

Due Regard:

To 'have due regard' means that in making decisions and in its other day-to-day activities the council must consciously consider the need to do the things set out in the general equality duty: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

In relation to health, we need to consider the potential short term and long term implication of for decisions that we take to support the Health and Wellbeing agendas.

How much regard is 'due' will depend on the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the aims in the general equality duty to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard required by the duty. We need to make sure that we understand the potential impact of decisions on people with different protected characteristics and also need to consider this information before and as decisions are being made. This will help us to reduce or remove unhelpful impacts and inequalities

Proposal Name:

Northampton Low Emission Strategy (NLES)

Aims/Objectives and purpose of the policy/service/function

Aims and objectives:

The NLES is intended to become Northampton’s Action Plan to address the retained Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) located across the borough. The main purpose is to ensure Northampton Borough Council meets its legal objectives with regard to action on air quality by publishing a plan/strategy which outlines measures to address these identified hot spots.

The NLES will also seek to go beyond just addressing hot spots through the promotion of measures/actions to sustain compliance with the relevant objectives for air quality in other areas of the town and improve health.

Key actions:

At this early stage, the purpose of the cabinet report and supporting NLES documents is to seek approval for wider public consultation.

It is intended to return the matter before Council to report on the findings of consultation and propose recommendations for the adoption of the NLES. It is anticipated that in preparation of the adoption process the community impact assessment will need to be more detailed.

Expected outcomes:

Approval to be given to consult with the wider Northampton public on the content of the NLES.

This feedback will be used to shape the final draft of the NLES as part of seeking cabinet approval in the adoption process.

Who will be affected and how:

At this stage, the consultation process is expected to be of low and neutral impact.

Approximately how many people will be affected:

None

Expected date of decision:

8th June 2016

Scope/focus of the assessment:

Please outline the scope and focus of the assessment:

The purpose of this assessment is to consider the impact of seeking approval from Cabinet to go out to public consultation on the Northampton Low Emission Strategy.

Community Screening Outcome

Will the proposal:	Yes/No
Eliminate discrimination, harassment or victimisation	No
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	No
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	No
Contribute towards health improvements or inequalities	Yes

Relevant data and/or research

Outline the information and research that has informed the decision:

Northampton Borough Council is legally obliged to produce a formal plan where it has identified areas of poor air quality. Currently there are 7 areas across the borough where ambient air quality levels exceed the relevant objection for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

The requirement to produce an action plan is an absolute duty and in meeting with its obligation for air quality management the Council has produced the Northampton Low Emission Strategy.

Sources and key findings:

Section 84(2)(b) of the Environment Act 1995 outlines the legal obligation of a Local Authority to prepare and publish an action plan where it has a designated air quality management area.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics:

It is not considered that the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics as the current position is to seek approval for consultation and actively involve people in the decision making process.

The consultation is intended to be inclusive rather than exclusive, and the Council is openly seeking to encourage views and opinions.

Current service provision

What are you doing now:

Seeking approval from cabinet to go out to full public consultation.

Rationale for change

What will you do if/when changes are agreed/introduced:

Develop a communication strategy to ensure an inclusive consultation is undertaken. Feedback has been provided by the comms team to use the following suggested methodology:

- Press Release involving local media
- Social media posts
- Consultation with local resident groups and associations
- Via the Council's website and intranet

Identification of affected groups/individuals

List the groups/individuals that may be affected by the proposal:

The overarching intention of the NLES is to improve local air quality so the Council can seek to meet the relevant air quality objectives, and where practical to go beyond the expectations of the objective to further improve public health.

A consultation exercise is considered to have a neutral impact and therefore not intended or expected to affect any local groups or individuals.

Assess and/or undertake Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

The purpose of this report is to seek to obtain approval to go out to public consultation.

In preparing the consultation draft of the NLES, key stakeholders have been involved in its development which includes colleagues from planning, transport and highways.

The outcome of the public consultation is expected to form the outline of recommendations to Council to adopt the NLES.

What were the results of the consultation:

Not applicable at this stage.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal:

Not applicable at this stage.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics:

Not applicable at this stage.

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

Not applicable at this stage.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

Not applicable at this stage.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

Not applicable at this stage.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None

Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	Low	Low
Disability	Low	Low
Gender reassignment	Low	Low
Marriage and civil partnership	Low	Low
Pregnancy and maternity	Low	Low
Race	Low	Low
Religion or belief	Low	Low
Sex	Low	Low
Sexual orientation	Low	Low
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	Low	Low

**when assessing relevance and impact, make it clear who the assessment applies to within the characteristic category. For example, a decision may have high relevance for young people, but low relevance for older people; it may have a positive impact on women but a neutral impact on men*

Please provide details:

Not applicable at this stage.

Mitigation of adverse impact on staff/service/people

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

Not applicable at this stage.

Publication of results

This Impact Assessment will be published on the Council's website

Monitoring and review

Please give details of how the changes will be monitored, and when the next review is due:

It is proposed that a minimum 8 week consultation process will be followed. When the consultation period has closed, consultation responses will be compiled and submitted as part of a report to cabinet to seek approval for the adoption of the NLES. It is anticipated that this report will return before cabinet in Autumn 2016.

Conclusion

There should be no unlawful discrimination arising from the decision.

Please state how “Due regard” has been taken to the equality duty, and public health considerations:

Poor air quality does not discriminate in terms of its impact on health. The potential for exposure to poor air quality has the potential to affect each person equally. However, the affect can be more significant to persons with pre-existing health conditions and/or any sensitivity.

The overall aim of the NLES is to address some of the health inequalities in Northampton by targeting some of the worst areas of the town, but to also take a more holistic in the approach by encouraging measures which can benefit the town on the whole.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

Seeking approval for public consultation is considered to be a neutral matter. Simply the aim is to seek approval to encourage views and opinions from as wide a cross section of the local Northampton population as possible.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Allen", is written on a white rectangular background.

Date:

24 May 2016