



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1. Initial information

Dorset Council Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2022 - 2027

2. Is this a:

New strategy

3. Is this:

Both internal and external

4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

Dorset Council has a statutory duty to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and to monitor air quality throughout its area and in particular within the two declared air Quality Management Areas

This Action Plan will replace the previous one for Chideock.

Actions have been developed that both address the NO₂ air quality objective exceedance in Chideock, but also address more strategic issues to try and reduce emissions of both NO₂ and PM_{2.5} across the district in order to improve health in a more equitable way. The measures can be considered under five broad topics:

- Continue collaborative work with Highways England to investigate, and where appropriate implement, direct measures to improve air quality on the A35 in Chideock
- Promotion of Behaviour Change away from Single Occupancy Private Vehicle Use
- Promotion of the Use of Alternatively Fuelled Vehicles
- Developing Policies to Support Better Air Quality
- Controlling Domestic Emissions

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

The Draft Chideock and Dorset Council Air Quality Action Plan has been produced to demonstrate how we intend to improve air quality across the entire area of Dorset Council, and, importantly focuses on the Chideock Air Quality Management Area which was declared on the basis of public exposure to nitrogen dioxide.

Improvements will reduce exposure for everyone but the positive effects will be particularly significant for those with health conditions which make them vulnerable to air pollution, contributing to reducing inequality.

The new AQAP will replace the aged one for Chideock dated 2011 and will in place for 5 years. Should the Action Plan be adopted by Dorset Council in 2022, its formal renewal will be in 2027.

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g national statistics, employee data):

Legislation

Physical air quality monitoring and modelling

Defra Guidance

Specialist consultant advice

Formal consultation process with public and statutory consultees

7. What did this tell you?

Consultation Report appended to EqIA

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

Internal depts of Dorset Council (Highways, Climate Change, Development Control, Building Control, Natural Environment)

Public

Town & Parish Councils

Neighbouring Local Authorities

Environment Agency

National Highways

Public Health Dorset

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

No

Is an EQIA required?

Not every proposal will need an EqIA. The data and research should inform your decision whether to continue with this EqIA. If you decide that your proposal does not need an EqIA, please answer the following question:

This policy, strategy, project or service does not require an EqIA because (provide details):

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Positive Impact	Children and older people are susceptible to the effects of air pollution. In early life exposure can affect lung function and

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		<p>growth. For older people it can increase the risk of heart problems and stroke.</p> <p>The AQAP aims to improve air quality across the entire area of Dorset Council, but with a focus on the Chideock AQMA which was declared on the basis of public exposure. Improvements will reduce exposure for everyone but the positive effects will be particularly significant for age groups vulnerable to air pollution, contributing to reducing inequality.</p> <p>30% of Dorset Council's population are over 65 years of age <u>Understanding Dorset - Dorset Council</u></p>
Disability	Positive Impact	<p>People with existing health conditions are susceptible to the effects of poor air quality. Exposure to poor air quality can exacerbate symptoms of asthma and cardiovascular disease. It also increases the risk of heart problems and stroke for those with existing cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.</p> <p>The AQAP aims to improve air quality across the entire area of Dorset Council, but also focuses on the Chideock AQMA which was declared on the basis of public exposure. Improvements will reduce exposure for everyone but the positive effects will be particularly significant for those with health conditions which make them vulnerable to air pollution, contributing to reducing inequality</p>
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral Impact	No differential impact identified with this protected

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		characteristic. The AQAP applies to all residents of Dorset
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral Impact	No differential impact identified for this protected characteristic. The Measures apply equally to all residents of Dorset
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive Impact	Exposure to poor air quality can affect a foetus within the first few weeks, with evidence emerging for resulting low birth weights and premature birth. Therefore pregnant women are also particularly susceptible to air pollution. As with other vulnerable groups, the aim of the AQAP to improve air quality will have positive effects particularly significant for them, contributing to reducing inequality.
Race and Ethnicity	Neutral Impact	The population is predominantly white British, with 4.4% of our residents from ethnically diverse communities. <u>Understanding Dorset - Dorset Council</u>
Religion and belief	Neutral Impact	No differential impact have been identified. The AQAP Measures apply equally to all residents of Dorset, irrespective of religion / faith
Sex (consider men and women)	Neutral Impact	There is no evidence to suggest that the effects of poor air quality are determined by sexual orientation.
Sexual orientation	Neutral Impact	There is no evidence to suggest that the effects of poor air quality are determined by sexual orientation.
People with caring responsibilities	Neutral Impact	No differential impact identified for this protected characteristic. The Measures apply equally to all residents of Dorset
Rural isolation	Positive Impact	Dorset Council identifies that there are areas of rural isolation. It is recognised that areas such as these are deprived, and subsequently likely to be adversely affected by air quality.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Socio-economic deprivation	Positive Impact	<p>Although air pollution can be harmful to everyone, people who live in more polluted areas are more affected. This tends to include low-income communities as they are more likely to live in areas with poorer air quality due to lower value properties often being located in more congested areas. They are also more likely to fit other criteria which indicate poorer health in general, making them more susceptible. Some of the proposed actions in the AQAP may have a financial impact on residents. The implications of these must be considered in relation to people experiencing social deprivation as there is a risk that they would be disproportionately disadvantaged.</p> <p>There are significant areas of deprivation within the Dorset Council area, mostly in urban but also some rural deprivation due to isolation Understanding Dorset - Dorset Council</p>
Armed forces communities	Neutral Impact	No differential impact identified for this protected characteristic. The Measures apply equally to all residents of Dorset

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Rural isolation and Socio-economic deprivation are protected characteristics which would result from positive impacts. The remainder would have neutral impact. No protected characteristic would be negatively impacted by the AQAP. No protected characteristic has been identified to have an unclear impact, which would then require further investigation.

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
n/a			
n/a			

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA: Coralie McGown

Officers involved in completing the EqIA: Coralie McGown

Date of completion: 25 February 2022

Version Number: 1

EqIA review date: 2027 – inline with a full review of a new AQAP

Inclusion Champion Sign Off:

Equality Lead Sign Off:

Next Steps:

- the EqIA will be reviewed by Business Intelligence & Performance and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.
- EqIA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)