

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Olivia Valerio

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Head of Section: Mike Cockburn

Chief Officer: Nicki Butterworth

Directorate: Neighbourhood Service

Date: 01/03/2021

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

The Council's Environment & Climate Emergency Policy

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes / No **If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**

The report will be received by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on the 16th March 2021

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

Navigate to Equality Impact Assessments since 2017 – then Delivery Services

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- x **Services**
- The workforce**
- x **Communities**
- x **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
<p>There are potential implications for disabled people, people with existing health conditions, young children, older people, people on low incomes, and socially isolated people.</p>	<p>The Environment & Climate Emergency Policy is an internal document setting out our strategy to reduce the carbon footprint of the council and its operations as part of our response to the Climate Emergency. The council's commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and make Wirral more climate resilient is likely to have a very positive impact on the Council workforce and residents of Wirral.</p> <p>Climate change projections suggest that we can expect hotter summers and milder winters; drier summers and wetter winters and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall, droughts and heatwaves (IPCC, 2018). Although these changes will have</p>	<p>The Environment & Climate Emergency Policy itself addresses potential negative impacts of climate change and ways to simultaneously tackle inequality. The asset and energy strategy in the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) which is influenced by the Environment & Climate Emergency Policy highlights the importance of reducing emissions within local communities. Similarly, the public health action strategy highlights the</p>	<p>The Climate Emergency Team will have overall oversight under Mike Cockburn. The policy will also be monitored by the Climate Emergency Board and the Communications team will be involved to ensure the</p>	<p>2020-2030</p>	<p>There are allocated financial resources set aside to respond to the Climate Emergency Declaration and implement the CEAP</p>

	<p>impacts for everyone in Wirral, the impacts are likely to be more severe for more vulnerable members of the community. By working to ameliorate global climate change at a local level and bolstering Wirral's resilience against the negative impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, flooding, and heat waves, having an up-to-date action policy is considered to have a positive impact compared to not having a fully supported policy in place, and, as such, should benefit all affected groups.</p> <p>When implementing the policy, it will be important to ensure climate emergency actions reach all areas of the borough and socio-economic groups to reduce existing inequalities. Lower income groups are considered to be less resilient to the impacts of climate change due to limited resources to respond. At the same time, some of the more affluent areas to Wirral are also the most exposed to significant flood risk such as Hoylake, West Kirby and New Brighton. For this resilience and adaptation has been developed to counter against flooding and coastal risk. Like the Wirral-wide Cool2 Climate Strategy which the CEAP contributes to, the action policy must promote a "just transition" to net-zero carbon emissions, ensuring the benefits and burdens are shared equally and do not have any adverse effects on the vulnerable (Cool Wirral Partnership, 2019).</p>	<p>importance of improved air quality and diet for both Wirral's environment and the population's health. The cycling scheme within the transportation strategy promotes active travel which will also bring health and climatic benefits. As part of the carbon capture action strategy, doubling tree canopy cover across the borough will contribute to carbon offsetting as well as more pleasant and healthy environments for residents. Staff investments via carbon literacy training across the council will also raise awareness of climate and related justice issues and how to tackle them. The action plan will be regularly reviewed, and its impacts monitored, to see if it is fulfilling the purpose of the environment and climate emergency policy.</p> <p>Multiple formats of the policy will be available on request, within a reasonable timeframe to comply with accessibility requirements including an easy-read</p>	<p>policy is accessible and easily available.</p>		
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	The policy itself must be accessible and available to all interested parties both internal and external to the council.	version. The Policy will be promoted through the Council's communication channels and available on the Council website			
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Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The Environment & Climate Emergency Policy will support the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) which is a living document and will be reviewed monthly by each subject lead, as well as being monitored by an Environment and Climate Emergency Action Group which will have overall oversight. Any changes in equality impact will be recorded and reviewed by the Action Group which will review the CEAP's progress annually in a report.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The Policy will aim to bring net positive impacts to the Council and borough in the immediate and longer term by tackling climate change at a local level and improving Wirral's resilience.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Cool Wirral Partnership (2019) *Rapid Sustainability Appraisal of the Wirral Climate Change Strategy, December 2019.*

Cool Wirral Partnership (2019) *Cool 2 – A strategy for Wirral in the face of the global climate emergency, December 2019*

Wirral Intelligence Service (2018) *Wirral JSNA, Climate & Health, October 2018*

HM Government (2017) *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017*

Wirral Council (2014) *Local Climate Change Impact Profile.*

Bates, G., Chadborn, N., Jones, L. and McVeigh, J. (2011) *The Impact of climate change upon health and health inequalities in the north west of England*, Centre for Public Health.

IPCC (2018) *Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty* [V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J. B. R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M. I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No

If 'yes' please continue to section 7.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

The policy is an internal document to direct the Council's 'locally determined contribution' to the Borough-wide Cool2 Climate Change Strategy. As an internal document it has not been subject to public consultation, but the Cool2 Strategy for Wirral to which it responds was subject to a series of engagement activities involving partner organisations and the wider public as well as a survey associated with a consultation draft of the strategy.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?

The Environment & Climate Emergency Policy will not be subject to public consultation as it's the Council's internal action policy framework and full public consultation took place when developing the borough wide 'Cool2' climate strategy for Wirral.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2a)**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)**
- c) **Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**