

Change Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1. Proposal details		
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed (subsequently referred to as project)	Climate Emergency Action Plan update (2024)	
Purpose of project	The purpose of the update is to outline what action the Authority has undertaken since the publication of the co-produced 2020 Climate Emergency Action Plan (now the Carbon Net-Zero Action Plan) and the actions that it intends to take in the coming years. The update is seeking to benefit all residents in North Tyneside in terms of preparedness and adaptation to climate change as well as the authority's mitigation of impacts on the climate.	
Who is the project intended to benefit?	The Carbon Net-Zero Action Plan's primary focus is on the mitigation against, and adaptation to, a changing climate. It aims to benefit residents of North Tyneside and to have a positive impact on the quality of our environment. Work on stakeholder consultation and engagement to update the 2024 Action Plan was undertaken between February and April 2024.	
What outcomes should be achieved?	A reduction in fossil fuel consumption and carbon emission production and co-benefits, including health improvements, ecology improvements, improved recycling, economic opportunities, etc.	
Version of EqIA	1	
Date this version created	10/06/2024	
Confidential	no	
Directorate	Environment	
Service	Sustainability	
	Name	Service or organisation
Principal author	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability
Additional authors		

2. Groups impacted		
Does the project impact upon?		If yes, what is the estimated number impacted and the level of impact this will have on the group (high, medium, low)?
Service users	yes	Low
Carers or family of service users	yes	Low
Residents	yes	Medium
Visitors	yes	Low
Staff	yes	Low
Partner organisations	yes	Low

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3. Evidence gathering and engagement		
	Internal evidence	External evidence
What evidence has been used for this assessment?	<p>Assessment of the Action Plan update in conjunction with the Engagement Team, the Cabinet member for the Climate Emergency, the Carbon Net Zero 2030 Board.</p> <p>Four face to face events were held with residents and interested groups. A digital survey was developed for residents, businesses and third sector organisations to complete. Face to face events also enabled the questionnaire to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following was drawn upon: • Annual Greenhouse Gas Report 2022-23 • UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics • The Energy Act 2023 • Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate and CO2 emissions regulation • Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

	<p>be administered to harder to reach groups.</p> <p>Performance data submitted to Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)</p> <p>North Tyneside Council's Carbon Net Zero (CNZ) programme and action plan.</p>	
Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this proposal?	yes	
If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?	As External above.	
Is there any information you don't have?	no	
If yes, why is this information not available?		

4. Impact on groups with different characteristics			
Legally protected characteristics	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified	Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment (mitigations are not included here)
Age	yes	yes	The action plan acknowledges that young children, older people, people from different ethnic communities, and those with mental or physical disabilities can be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change.

Disability	yes	yes	<p>The action plan acknowledges that people with mental or physical disabilities can be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change and there is the potential for people with disabilities to be both positively and negatively impacted by climate action policies</p> <p>Potential negative impacts could include: those with communication needs to not to be engaged in the action plan. people with disabilities or long term conditions are more likely to struggle meeting the cost of both climate change impacts and introducing some of the mitigations</p>
Gender reassignment	N/A	N/A	
Marriage & civil partnership	N/A	N/A	
Pregnancy & maternity	N/A	N/A	
Race	yes	yes	<p>The action plan acknowledges that people from different ethnic communities can be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>There is potential for people of all races to be overall positively impacted by the climate action policies.</p> <p>There may be some instances where English is not the first language of an individual or a situation where they may not be able to be actively engaged in policy development.</p>
Religion or belief	N/A	N/A	
Sex	N/A	N/A	
Sexual orientation	N/A	N/A	
Intersectionality	Yes	Yes	<p>There is the potential for people to experience greater negative impact or a negative impact due to combinations of age, disability, being a carer, race and socio-economic disadvantage. Young</p>

			children, older people, people from different ethnic communities, and those with mental or physical disabilities can be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change.
Non-legally protected characteristic			
Carers	yes	yes	Time/capacity of residents with carer responsibilities to access reliable information.
Socio-economic disadvantage	yes	yes	<p>Positive impacts from mitigation actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local or regional economic benefits • Skills development and training opportunities • Air Quality • Health benefits. <p>Potential Negative impacts from actions The action plan does not propose to enforce any changes on households. More broadly, as the country moves to cleaner sources of power and heat, there is a risk that this may increase household bills. This is highly influenced by Government policy and global energy markets. This will leave the most vulnerable at a higher risk.</p> <p>People with some disabilities who need to use electrically powered aids and equipment and the people they live with (including carers) can be particularly negatively impacted if power costs increase as they can face not only issues re ability to pay but also restrictions on the extent to which they can reduce usage.</p>

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5. Achievement of the Authority's public sector equality duty		
Will the proposal contribute to any of the following?		If yes, how?

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment	N/A	
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	yes	This action plan does have the potential to advance equality of opportunity e.g. through removing or minimising disadvantage; meeting the needs of different groups; ensuring equal access; encouraging increased participation of particular groups; taking account of the needs of people with disabilities.
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	N/A	

6. Negative impacts		
Potential negative impact	Can it be reduced or removed?	If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?
A risk of higher household bills from decarbonisation of power and heat.	yes- reduced	Local initiatives have been implemented to alleviate fuel poverty. Historically the Authority implemented a successful Warm Zone programme and more recently the Authority has undertaken energy efficiency programmes using the Homes Improvement Grant, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the Local Authority Decarbonisation Grant. The Authority offers advice to residents and is now sign posting to the regional One-Stop Shop for domestic energy advice.
Individuals ability to participate in policy development because of language barriers (English not being a first language)	Yes - reduced	The Authority has an Accessible Information Policy and working to improve the collection and use of information on customers' communication needs to ensure appropriate communication methods/formats are used to enable engagement and access to services.

<p>The Authority will do everything possible to minimise the negative effects of this, including supporting residents to make their homes more energy efficient, and to reduce the potentially unequal impact it could have on certain groups. Whilst there are local actions that can be undertaken, the significant influence of Government policy and the global energy markets must be acknowledged</p>	<p>Yes - reduced</p>	<p>The Authority will fully consider the aspects of time/capacity of residents to access reliable information (for carers and socio-economically disadvantaged) as well as access to information in non-digital forms.</p>
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7. Action plan				
Actions to gather evidence or information to improve NTC's understanding of the potential impacts on people with protected characteristics and how best to respond to them	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area	Target completion date	Action completed
<p>Future communications regarding stakeholder groups and engagement in the updating of the climate emergency action plan will include opportunities to gather further evidence to support decision making by collecting specific information for those</p>	<p>Michael Keenlyside</p>	<p>Environmental Sustainability / Engagement Teams</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>in progress</p>

with protected characteristics.					
Ensure Equality and Diversity considerations are embedded in policies and work programmes related to the climate emergency.	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability / Engagement Teams	Ongoing		in progress
Actions already in place to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area	Impact		
The Authority has a number of alternative methods of communication and translation services available upon request by members of the public.	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability / Engagement Teams	reduce		
Actions that will be taken to remove or reduce potential negative impacts	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area	Impact	Target completion date	Action completed
These will be addressed as officers progress these with the further roll out of actions within the plan. These will mainly be in association with communication. For example, we will ensure that all of our letters and emails to the public include the Authority's accessibility statement;. Accessing and using the Council Website also provides a range of options for users to fully engage in services, but we can also make	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability / Engagement Teams	reduce	On-going	in progress

information available in non-digital formats					
Actions that will be taken to make the most of any potential positive impact	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area		Target completion date	Action completed
The Authority will promote the positive impacts on protected groups of our actions to address climate change through our communication channels	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability / Communication Teams		On-Going	in progress
Actions that will be taken to monitor the equality impact of this proposal once it is implemented	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area		Target completion date	Action completed
Action to embed the diversity impacts of the action plan will be undertaken and reported against.	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability		On-going	in progress
Date review of EqIA to be completed	Responsible officer name	Responsible officer service area			
30/09/2025	Michael Keenlyside	Environmental Sustainability			

8. Outcome of EqIA	
Outcome	Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion:
The proposal is robust, no major change is required	A combined approach between the Engagement Team and Equality Team and the Service area have made the review of the Action Plan for 2024 a robust basis to address equality impacts.

9. Corporate Equality Group member approval

Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree
If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Corporate Equality Group member	Chris Bishop
Date	07/06/2024

Section 10 guidance

To be completed by Director/Head of Service.

10. Director/ Head of Service approval	
Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?	Agree
If disagree, please explain why?	
Name of Director/Head of Service	Paul Nelson
Date	10/06/2024