

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Helen Crowther Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk or phone 01223 457046.

Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking. For advice on consulting on equality impacts, please contact Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, (graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457044).

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract, or major change to your service

Greater Cambridge Air Quality Strategy (2024 – 2029)
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2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract, or major change to your service (if available)

Browse meetings - Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee - Cambridge Council
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3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract, or major change to your service?
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The primary objectives of the Greater Cambridge Air quality Strategy (2024 – 2029) are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to meet and deliver all legislative and policy requirements associated with air quality under the Environment Act 2021 and Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). |
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2. Continue to improve air quality across Greater Cambridge enhancing the health of those living, working and visiting Greater Cambridge
3. Work towards World Health Organisation Air quality Guideline annual averages as longer term targets with interim targets for delivery within the lifetime of the strategy (5 years).

Air Quality has improved across Cambridge in recent years both in response to active measures implemented by Cambridge City Council to improve air quality and due to the modernisation of the transport fleet in accordance with stricter emission standards; however it is widely accepted that there is no safe level of air pollution. Greater Cambridge is a major growth area with large scale development and population increase coming forward in the next 10-20 years. This Strategy seeks to strike a balance in supporting the productivity, economy and prosperity of Greater Cambridge whilst continuing to deliver improvements in air quality and the positive health outcomes that improved air quality will deliver for both residents and visitors to the Greater Cambridge area. It outlines the action both Cambridge City Council and its partners will take to improve air quality in Cambridge between 2024 -2029. Cambridge City council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in Cambridge to poor air quality to improve health.

4. Responsible service: Environmental Health

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Residents
- Visitors
- Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

Because the scope of the strategy is district wide anyone in Greater Cambridge including residents, visitors and staff could be potentially affected.

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?

- New
- Major change
- Minor change

7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)

- Yes
 No

Not all sources of air pollution originate from within Greater Cambridge. For some pollutants achieving the objectives set out in the strategy will require policy intervention not only locally but nationally and internationally. Local Authorities have the responsibility of monitoring air quality within their district. The Strategy focuses on sources of pollution that can be influenced locally working with delivery partners across a range of disciplines to deliver improved air quality. Partners include Greater Cambridge Planning Service, Cambridgeshire County Council (Highways and Public Health), GCP and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined Authority

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

It was agreed at the October 2023 Environmental & Community Scrutiny Committee to pursue a joint air quality strategy with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and to work towards World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guideline targets. SCDC agreed these decisions at their equivalent committee in December 2023.

The full Greater Cambridge Air Quality Strategy will be put forward for adoption at the March 2024 Environmental and Community Scrutiny Committee.

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

- [Public Health Outcomes Framework - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)
- www.local.gov.uk/publications/air-quality-briefing-directors-public-health
- [Report: Air Quality and Social Deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis - Defra, UK\)](#)
- 'State of the city Report' (www.cambridge.gov.uk/state-of-the-city)
- Census 2021 and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data - [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Welcome to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight \(cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk\)](#).
- [The Health Of People From Ethnic Minority Groups In England | The King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](#)

The Draft Strategy was open for wider public consultation on citizen Lab between 18th January and 19th February 2024 with publicity to promote the consultation via

Cambridge Matters, Press Releases and social media. 323 responses were received of which 71.9% were in support of the proposals. 18% of the respondents identified as male and 13% identified as female. The remainder of the respondents preferred not to state their sex. 8% of respondents stated they had a physical or mental illness lasting more than 12 months.

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

All ages are impacted by poor air quality, but the young and the old are the most vulnerable. Those most likely to be affected by air pollution are people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or cardiovascular disease. Those who are more susceptible to air pollution in certain life stages are unborn babies (pregnant women), children (some children are particularly vulnerable i.e. those with underlying chronic lung condition and cystic fibrosis) and older adults. Older adults are also more sensitive to air pollution leading to the need for increased care, including hospitalisation.

13.5% of Cambridge City population is under 15 years old with 11.4% of the population over 65 years old (Census 2021). Taking this into consideration if the measures within the strategy are implemented and the interim targets realised it would have a positive impact on children aged under 15 years old and adults aged 50 or over which represents approximately 38.7% of Cambridges population.

Some measures identified within the strategy promote the use of public transport and active travel i.e. walking and cycling and discourage the use of motor vehicles. Some less mobile older adults may find it harder to easily adapt their lifestyles to take up alternative more sustainable modes of travel. Whilst infrastructure projects are a key delivery mechanism for delivering improved air quality within the strategy; each will be considered as a standalone project and be assessed against accordingly against the Public Sector equality duty and if a negative impact identified mitigation proposed.

In addition a potential barrier exists in the older population for accessing information and services through online platforms and social media. Research shows that older adult can be digitally excluded ([Internet users, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)). Awareness raising and accessing information by the public is one of the key priorities of the strategy. We will need to ensure that older adults are targeted as part of the promotion campaign. Several ideas were suggested in the consultation as to how to increase awareness of air quality issues and what actions can be taken in addition to digital platforms. We will ensure that we consider all forms of communication in order to access all ages of society.

Positive Impact: Health benefits because of the resultant improvements in air quality and reduction in exposure to pollution

Potential Negative Impact: Making use of private vehicles less accessible may impact on less mobile older adults. Any projects of this type would be assessed as a standalone project and carry out their own EqIA. Research suggests that older adults are more likely to be digitally excluded. When promoting the air quality agenda we will need to consider this group and ensure they are targeted.

(b) Disability

In the 2021 census a total of 6.2% of Cambridge City residents are living with a disability that limits day to day activities. All members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality. Improved air quality can prevent exacerbation of certain existing conditions for example those who have existing heart and lung conditions are more sensitive to air pollution leading to the need for additional medical care including hospitalisation. This group would disproportionately benefit from the measures implemented in the strategy and the subsequent air quality improvements.

Some of the measures in the Strategy aim to improve pedestrian and cyclist access throughout the city encouraging active travel i.e. walking and cycling and discouraging the use of motor vehicles. Improvements to the highways and the pavements would likely improve the ability for those with physical disabilities to travel through the district. This was highlighted as a concern in the responses to our consultation where the state of pavements was a barrier to disabled people accessing services.

Where infrastructure projects discourage the use of private vehicles and promote public transport and active travel; those less mobile people with a disability may find it harder to easily adapt their lifestyles to take up alternative more sustainable modes of travel. Whilst infrastructure projects are a key delivery mechanism for delivering improved air quality within the strategy; each will be considered as a standalone

project and be assessed accordingly against the Public Sector equality duty and if a negative impact identified mitigation proposed.

In addition a potential barrier exists for those with a disability accessing information and services through online platforms and social media. Research shows that people with a disability can be digitally excluded [Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandcare/articles/exploring-the-uk-s-digital-divide). Awareness raising and accessing information by the public is one of the key priorities of the strategy. We will need to ensure that those with a disability are targeted as part of the promotion campaign. Several ideas were suggested in the consultation as to how to increase awareness of air quality issues and what actions can be taken in addition to digital platforms. We will ensure that we consider all forms of communication in order to access all aspects of society.

Positive Impact: Health benefits because of the resultant improvements in air quality and reduction in exposure to pollution

Potential Negative Impact: Making use of private vehicles less accessible may impact on those with mobility issues. Any projects of this type would be assessed as a standalone project and carry out their own EqlA. Research suggests that people with a disability are more likely to be digitally excluded. When promoting the air quality agenda we will need to consider this group and ensure they are targeted.

(c) Gender reassignment

No negative impact has been identified specific to people with this protected characteristic although all members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality.

No Impact predicted

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

32.9% of the Cambridge population is married or in a civil partnership (census 2021), which is well below the regional average (47.2%) and National (44.7%).

No negative impact has been identified specific to people with this protected characteristic although all members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality.

No Impact predicted

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

There were 1,293 live birth to people in Cambridge City in 2021 (JSNA 2023). Exposure to air pollution is linked to premature birth, still birth and organ damage during development. The proposal will improve air quality across the city with positive impacts in terms of pregnancy and maternity.

All people with this protected characteristic would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality, however Pregnant people may not be able to access all of the opportunities available by active travel i.e. walking and cycling and public transport given the potential for reduced mobility during pregnancy. Whilst infrastructure projects are a key delivery mechanism for delivering improved air quality within the strategy; each will be considered as a standalone project and be assessed against accordingly against the Public Sector equality duty and if a negative impact identified mitigation proposed.

Positive Impact: Health benefits because of the resultant improvements in air quality and reduction in exposure to pollution

Potential Negative Impact: may not be able to easily access options for active travel increasing reliance on private vehicles. Any projects of this type would be assessed as a standalone project and carry out their own EqIA.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Approximately half (53%) of the respondents to the 2021 census in Cambridge City described themselves as White British. The remainder is made up of black and ethnic groups with the largest group Other white (21.5%) followed by Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (14.8%).

City wide improvements to air quality will benefit all people living in the city, including a high proportion of the population from ethnic minority backgrounds. This could be important as UK-wide research shows that there are health inequalities between ethnic minority and white groups, and between different ethnic minority groups – and air pollution can exacerbate some existing health conditions.

Positive Impact: Health benefits because of the resultant improvements in air quality and reduction in exposure to pollution

(g) Religion or belief

No negative impact has been identified specific to people with this protected characteristic although all members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality.

No Impact Predicted

(h) Sex

No negative impact has been identified specific to people with this protected characteristic although all members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality.

No Impact Predicted

(i) Sexual orientation

No negative impact has been identified specific to people with this protected characteristic although all members of this group would benefit from the health benefits offered from improved air quality.

No Impact Predicted

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular, please consider the impact of any changes on:

- **Low-income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty**
- **People of any age with care experience – this refers to individuals who spent part of their childhood in the care system due to situations beyond their control, primarily arising from abuse and neglect within their families. The term “Care experience” is a description of a definition in law, it includes anyone that had the state as its corporate parent by virtue of a care order in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and amendments.**
- **Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_I59kt25q).**

Low Income Groups – poorer air quality in Greater Cambridge is predominantly linked with vehicle movements along busy roads. Whilst nationally there is a significant link between lower incomes and poorer air quality; in Cambridge this is not as evident as more deprived Wards are not necessarily located adjacent to the busiest roads. However a small increase in PM_{2.5} can be seen in lower income wards in the north of the city (King Hedges, Arbury & Abbey) most likely by the proximity of the A14.

People of any age with care experience - No impact identified for people with Care Experience

Groups who have more than one protected characteristic - If people have some long-term health conditions as well as well as being children, older age, or pregnant then impacts of poor air quality can be exacerbated as increased vulnerabilities.

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqIA accordingly.)

The Greater Cambridge Air Quality Strategy is an evolving document that pulls together all activities that deliver improvements to air quality into one single document. It is important that when undertaking promotion and awareness raising

(Priority 3) that consideration is given to those groups where a potential negative impact has been identified and targeted communications are undertaken to mitigate negative impacts where possible. Monitoring (Priority 4) should consider all protected characteristic groups where a potential positive or negative impact has been identified if applicable. Measures identified under Priorities 1 (Regulatory Policies & Development Control) & 2 (Infrastructure Projects) are key for delivering improved air quality across Greater Cambridge. Measures under these priorities will be delivered by a range of partners. Each will operate as a standalone project and be assessed accordingly

12. Do you have any additional comments?

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Elizabeth Bruce, Scientific Officer

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Helen Crowther, Equality & Anti Poverty Officer; Yvonne O'Donnell, Environmental Health Manager; Jo Dicks, EQG Team Manager & Anne Marie-Hindley, Scientific Officer

Date of EqIA sign off: 6th March 2024

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: 30th June 2025

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: 30th April 2024

All EqIAs need to be sent to the Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk