



Oxfordshire County Council Equalities Impact Assessment

Air Quality Strategy

May 2023

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Place, Transport and Infrastructure Public Health, Healthy Place Shaping
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Oxfordshire County Council Air Quality Strategy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy document
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	The OCC air quality strategy outlines what the County Councils vision for air quality is and how the County Council will work towards achieving the vision. Possible impacts include reduced emissions due to the linkages between air quality and climate action and improved public health due to air quality improvements.
Completed By	Joe Kay / Kate Eveleigh
Authorised By	Lauren Rushen
Date of Assessment	10/2/23

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. Locally, the air quality context is complex, with a range of partner organisations each responsible for different elements of air quality. The county council through its crosscutting work on climate action, transport, development, waste and economy has already implemented many actions that will help to tackle poor air quality, and more are due to be delivered in the coming years.</p> <p>However, we recognise there is scope to do more. The air quality strategy is a first step towards improving OCC work on air quality and raising awareness of air quality. It is supported by a route map that sets out what work we are already doing and the actions we will take in the next 3 years.</p> <p>The actions are all related to functions directly within Oxfordshire County Council's control. This will help to better define the county council's role and develop relationships with our partners. Moving forward a more comprehensive countywide strategy will be required with support from a range of stakeholders to truly deliver better air quality for all. It is hoped that the OCC air quality strategy will serve as a starting point and platform for enabling a countywide strategy.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The intent and purpose of this work is to identify the impacts the county council has on air quality, both positive and negative. Through improving communication around air quality, we can work better together, internally and with external partners. The county council not only delivers services and interventions but also acts as a leader to improve air quality.</p> <p>The strategy proposes an ambitious vision for air quality in Oxfordshire. The vision outlines what we are working towards, sets the scale of change required and will help to ensure consistency between future short term route maps. It will also require us to work in partnership with other stakeholders to deliver this ambition.</p> <p>In support of the vision, the strategy identifies a set of objectives and a strategic approach to guide work on air quality. The strategy is then supported by a route map that identifies the work already underway and actions we will be taking to deliver our vision and objectives.</p>

<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>There is a large amount of evidence about air quality that has been used to inform the strategy. These sources are quoted throughout the strategy and route map. In addition, there is Oxfordshire specific data that has also been analysed. Internal and external stakeholders were also engaged with during development of the strategy to refine its content. This included a workshop with OCC officers and district and city officers in February 2023.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>Many of the actions are linked to existing council work and so alternatives were not considered. For new actions and the vision, several proposals were considered and were refined through the officer workshop.</p> <p>A do nothing approach was not considered appropriate for a range of reasons. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. • Work to improve air quality aligns with delivery of Oxfordshire County Councils priorities. • Long term exposure to air pollution causes ill health and death.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, benefitting older and younger residents.</p> <p>Older and younger people are particularly susceptible to the impacts of poor air quality. In children this includes asthma and slower development of lung function. In the elderly, this includes lung cancer and dementia.</p> <p>The strategy will therefore help to improve the health and wellbeing of different age groups and raise awareness of air pollutions impact on different age groups.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.

Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, benefitting disabled residents.</p> <p>Air pollution can exacerbate existing health conditions and people with existing health conditions are more susceptible to the negative impacts of air pollution.</p> <p>The strategy will therefore help to improve the health and wellbeing of disabled residents and raise awareness of air pollutions impact.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, benefitting pregnant women.</p> <p>Pregnant women are particularly susceptible to the impacts of poor air quality and air pollution can cause low birth weight.</p> <p>The strategy will therefore help to improve the health and wellbeing of pregnant women and raise awareness of air pollutions impact on pregnancy.</p>		<p>Delivery by a range of stakeholders.</p>	<p>Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.</p>
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Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, benefitting residents from a non-white ethnic background.</p> <p>There is a complex association between air pollution exposure, area level deprivation and ethnicity.</p> <p>Analysis in London found that communities with higher levels of deprivation, or a higher proportion of people from a non-white ethnic background, were more likely to be exposed to higher levels of air pollution.</p> <p>The strategy will therefore help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents from a non-white ethnic background and raise awareness of the association between ethnicity and air pollution exposure.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, including in rural communities.</p> <p>Much academic research is based on urban air pollution and there is a gap around rural air pollution. As Oxfordshire is mostly a rural county, we believe there is an opportunity to address this gap.</p> <p>The strategy therefore includes an action to engage with and support air quality research and citizen science engagement, particularly in rural areas.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.
Armed Forces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve air quality in the county, benefitting residents in areas of deprivation.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				<p>Areas of high deprivation are often more polluted due to higher levels of traffic or industrial activities.</p> <p>People in lower socio-economic groups are more likely to have pre-existing health conditions earlier in life. Air pollution may add to the burden of poor health.</p> <p>Studies show increased health risks associated with exposure to air pollution among those living in areas of higher socio-economic deprivation.</p> <p>The strategy will therefore help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in areas of deprivation and raise awareness of the association between deprivation and air quality.</p>			

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will help to improve council work on tackling air quality. This will have a positive impact on staff who will experience less exposure to air pollution and improved health.</p> <p>It will also help to raise staff awareness of air pollution and the actions that can be taken.</p>		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.
Other Council Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving air quality will help to benefit residents health and wellbeing. This will have positive impacts on other services such as public health.		Delivery by a range of stakeholders.	Annual review via the Health Protection Forum.
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Social Value ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	June 2024
Person Responsible for Review	Joe Kay, Strategic Transport Lead Kate Eveleigh, Health Improvement Practitioner
Authorised By	Lauren Rushen