

## Equality Impact Assessment: Air Quality Annual Status Report and revision of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Committee name & date:	Report Title	Decisions being recommended:	People with protected characteristics potentially impacted by the decisions to be made:
Executive Council	Air Quality Annual Status Report and revision of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Noting the contents of the Annual Status Report.  That Executive Committee approves the consultation on	Action on local air quality is a legal duty placed upon the Council (and all district and county councils) by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Safeguarding air quality will help reduce any detrimental effects from air pollution on the health and wellbeing of Exeter's population. We are required under this legislation to submit an Annual Status Report to DEFRA using their template and to present the report to members at a local level.

		revising the Air Quality Management Area that will run from 4 November 2025 until 16 January 2026.	Improving air quality will benefit all those living, working and visiting the city. In particular it will have a positive impact upon those with disabilities such as breathing and respiratory issues, those with vulnerabilities such as children and the elderly and those who are pregnant.
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**Factors to consider in the assessment:** For each of the groups below, an assessment has been made on whether the proposed decision will have a **positive, negative or neutral impact**. This must be noted in the table below alongside brief details of why this conclusion has been reached and notes of any mitigation proposed. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

**High impact** – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

**Medium impact** – some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

**Low impact** – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
<b>Race and ethnicity</b> (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers; asylum seekers).	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.
<b>Disability:</b> as defined by the Equality Act – a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse impact on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Improving air quality in Exeter and reducing exposure will assist in protecting residents with breathing and respiratory problems. Providing information about air quality will enable individuals to make informed decisions to protect personal health.

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
			<p>The monitoring sites target local areas of potential concern to inform communities.</p> <p>Consultees will have the opportunity to respond by electronic communication, telephone or a personal visit (in a case with the proposed new AQMA area)</p>
<b>Sex/Gender</b>	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.
<b>Religion and belief</b> (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions).	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual).	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.
<b>Age</b> (children and young people aged 0-24; adults aged 25-50; younger older people aged 51-75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<p>Poor air quality affects the most vulnerable people in Exeter therefore fulfilling our statutory duties with respect to air quality is likely to have a positive health impact on children and the elderly.</p> <p>Actions to improve air quality and provide information may assist individuals in taking action to protect their own health, making informed decisions on transport, walking routes and indoor air quality will have a positive impact.</p>

Protected characteristic/ area of interest	Positive or Negative Impact	High, Medium or Low Impact	Reason
			Consultees will have the opportunity to respond by electronic communication, telephone or a personal visit (in a case with the proposed new AQMA area)
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b> including new and breast feeding mothers	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Improving air quality will positively impact positively on those who are pregnant.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership status</b>	<b>Neutral</b>		There is no evidence that this will impact on any specific person based on this characteristic.

**Actions identified that will mitigate any negative impacts and/or promote inclusion**

The Council will consider Equalities and protected characteristics at all stages of any consultation process.

The consultation process will ensure that all persons dealt with receive fair and equitable treatment irrespective of their background or protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

**Officer:** Simon Lane, Head of Environment and Waste

**Date:** July 2025