

Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

(Updated December 2022)

Item name	Details
Title of service or policy	Revocation of Farrington Gurney Air Quality Management Area
Name of directorate and service	Place Management, Public Protection.
Name and role of officers completing the EIA	Alexei Turner, Senior Officer (Environmental Monitoring)
Date of assessment	17/09/2025

Equality Impact Assessment (or ‘Equality Analysis’) is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on different groups within the community. The main aim is to identify any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and also to identify areas where equality can be better promoted. Equality impact Assessments (EIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so leave blank any that are not applicable.** It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council’s website.

1.1 Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented

Key questions	Answers / notes
<p>1.1 Briefly describe purpose of the service/policy e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How the service/policy is delivered and by whom ● If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations ● Intended outcomes 	<p>This plan aims to outline the process of revoking the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Farrington Gurney, declared in 2018. This AQMA order was signed on 20 August 2018.</p> <p>An AQMA was declared at this location, under the statutory requirement of the 1995 Environment Act (as amended by the 2021 Environment Act), following concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) higher than the UK objective level of 40 µg/m³. Whilst there are legal limits, there are no safe level of pollutants, with exposure to high levels of NO₂ making existing heart and lung conditions such as asthma worse. Particulates are also now known to contribute to heart disease and lung cancer (Air Quality - a briefing for Directors of Public Health, Defra, 2017).</p> <p>The intended result of this AQMA was to lower the concentrations of NO₂ to within legal limits, and this has been achieved. The concentrations of NO₂ have been well below the objective limits for over 3 consecutive years, and in line with Defra guidance and associated legislation, this AQMA can now be revoked.</p>

	<p>Following the revocation of the AQMA the Council will continue to monitor air quality in these areas. The Council are developing an air quality strategy to provide a framework in delivering local air quality improvements within the Bath and North East Somerset district, as well as detailing the ambition the authority has with developing appropriate policies and applying appropriate regulatory control.</p>
<p>1.2 Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one? ● Is it a national requirement?). ● How much room for review is there? 	<p>The Council is responsible for monitoring air quality and achieving compliance under Part VI of the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021).</p> <p>The Air Quality Management Area in question is an existing policy in place, however, under the requirement of Defra it should be reviewed every 5 years, and then revoked following over 3 consecutive years of NO₂ concentrations below the objective limit. The AQMA within Farrington Gurney is to be revoked in line with Defra guidance and relevant legislation. https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/LAQM-Policy-Guidance-2022.pdf</p> <p>We are revoking this AQMA in accordance with Policy Guidance 2022 (England (not London) LAQM.PG22).</p>
<p>1.3 Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?</p>	<p>This policy will have a positive impact on the aims and objectives of the Council’s Corporate Strategy (2023-2027).</p>

2. Consideration of available data, research, and information

Key questions	Data, research, and information that you can refer to
<p>2.1 What equalities training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?</p>	<p>As part of the Councils corporate training programme, all employees are required to complete mandatory training on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.</p>
<p>2.2 What is the equalities profile of service users?</p>	<p>Information about the equalities profile of populations within Farrington Gurney can be found at: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/bath-and-north-east-somerset-ward-profiles</p>
<p>2.3 Are there any recent customer satisfaction surveys to refer to? What were the results? Are there any gaps? Or differences in experience/outcomes?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>2.4 What engagement or consultation has been undertaken as part of this EIA and with whom? What were the results?</p>	<p>Whilst there is no requirement to consult on this process under the 1995 Environment Act (as amended by the 2021 Environment Act) we have a duty to revoke the Air Quality Management Area and will be informing members of the public via a 5-week engagement process.</p> <p>Notification of the revocation will be provided in a written format to all residents and businesses within a 25m radius of the Air Quality Management Area. This information will also be uploaded onto the B&NES website and placed on public noticeboards. The team will also attend the Somer Valley Area Forum.</p> <p>In line with our requirements under the 1995 Environment Act (as amended by the 2021 Environment Act), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be notified, as well as the Local Air Quality management (LAQM) Helpdesk.</p> <p>Additionally, and under the requirements of Schedule 11 of the 1995 Environment Act (as amended by the 2021 Environment Act), B&NES will also consult the statutory consultees</p>

	<p>including the West of England Combined Authority, Highways England, and the local Highways Authority.</p> <p>Internally, Finance and Legal Departments will have been consulted on regarding the revocation of this AQMA, as well as the Equalities Team.</p> <p>Relevant councillors will be contacted from both B&NES and Farrington Gurney Parish Council.</p>
<p>2.5 If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equalities considerations within this?</p>	<p>No formal public consultations proposed at this time.</p> <p>There is going to be a public engagement period where residents who live within 25m of the AQMA boundary are going to be asked for their comments in relation this revocation. Comments can be made online, via the post or in-person at a local Council Connect centre.</p> <p>A printed copy of the consultation documents will be placed at the library in the Hollies, Midsomer Norton. Notification of the consultation will also be placed on noticeboards in and around Farrington Gurney.</p> <p>These documents can be made available in a range of languages and other accessible formats if requested.</p>

3. Assessment of impact: ‘Equality analysis’

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equalities groups

Key questions	Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this
3.1 Issues relating to all groups and protected characteristics	The areas in question have seen a reduction in NO ₂ concentrations therefore improving air quality for everyone and reducing inequality for people with protected characteristics.	The NO ₂ concentrations will continue to be monitored and no adverse impact is anticipated for anyone with or without a protected characteristic.

*There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

** The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay 'due regard' to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

4. Bath and North East Somerset Council & NHS B&NES Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when
None- continue to monitor concentrations of NO ₂ and implement a Clean Air Strategy.	None	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equalities Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk), who will publish it on the Council's and/or NHS B&NES' website. Keep a copy for your own records.

Signed off by: Chris Major

(Divisional Director or nominated senior officer)

Date: 14/11/2025