

### **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Deliberative Processes**

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

#### **EqIA Titular information:**

Date:	14/06/2021
Service:	Place Commissioning
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	<b>Climate Emergency Community Deliberative Processes Options Appraisal</b>
Completed by:	Diana Tovar
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	No
Signed off by:	Rhian Hayes
Sign off date:	14 June 2021

#### **1. Policy, Project or service information:**

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

#### **What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change, its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:**

This report describes the work undertaken to identify effective deliberative engagement processes with the community on climate emergency and establishes the commitment to develop a proposal for delivering these processes and to report back to Council in October 2021.

These processes aim to help better understand the views of our residents on the council's response to climate change, while raising the profile of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and encouraging residents to engage more with its existing actions, though ultimately helping to identify new actions to close the carbon emissions shortfall identified in the CEAP. Therefore, key topics will include:

- Driving less – reducing car ownership, modal shift to public transport, walking and cycling more, transitioning to electric vehicles
- Energy – reduce energy consumption by adopting better behaviours, improving our homes, adopting green technologies
- Waste - reduce the amount of waste generated and improve our recycling behaviours

- Food - eat less meat and dairy products, consume seasonal produce
- Conscious consumption - shop local, use less plastic, avoid fast fashion, staycation
- Support biodiversity - plant or adopt a tree, support local gardens, give home to nature

**Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members ect) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:**

The Community Deliberative Processes Options Appraisal Report (Appendix A) outlines fifteen of the existing options for community engagement recently used for climate emergency and scores them based on the policy stage, cost, length of the process, number of participants, participant's selection and delivery form.

The deliberative processes reviewed include opinion polls, community appraisal, user panels, participatory strategy planning, focus groups, feedback kiosks, citizen advisory groups, 21st century town meetings, area forums, positive deviance, conversations cafés, crowd wise, crowdsourcing, and e-panels. This comparison not only highlights the breadth of options available but also enables the best solution to be chosen for engagement on the climate emergency agenda taking into account timescales and resources. Additionally, existing successful case studies from other local authorities engaging their residents with the climate emergency agenda have also been sourced to demonstrate the potential effectiveness of these approaches.

Evaluation criteria were established to assess the identified community deliberative methods through key variables which include cost, length of the process, number of participants, feedback detail, discussion potential, participant variation, and communication of results.

Based on this research (Appendix A), the recommended public deliberative methods to engage the community with the climate emergency agenda are focus groups and e-panels.

Following the research and recommendations, officers will develop a fully costed proposal to deliver community deliberative processes (primarily focus groups and e-panels), detailing how these methods will be set up and delivered, for Executive approval in October 2021. The climate emergency team is leading on the implementation of this report and the subsequent development of the proposal to deliver the recommended deliver community deliberative processes. Cooperation from multiple departments across the council will be needed in delivering the proposal. This includes feedback on the methodology, support providing evidence and informing focus groups and the e-panels questionnaires.

**Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?**

The main beneficiaries of the project are all of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough. By engaging with them through these processes it will allow the council to informed decision making throughout this agenda and to promote opportunities and options for positive change and to support the effective delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

By engaging the community and empowering residents to lead real behavioural change, the council will be able to increase citizen-led transitions to a non-carbon future the community

Tackling the climate emergency in Wokingham will need active participation from its residents, who must be consulted and involved in the big changes that will affect the way they live their lives. Through the right consultative and participation methods, the council will be able to hear their voices, collect their views and gather insight to inform future decisions.

**Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:**

Following the research and the recommendations (Appendix A), the proposal to be developed will include comprehensive information on how these methods (focus groups and e-panels) will be set up and delivered, including:

- Stakeholder mapping and selection
- Delivery partners
- Key topics for discussion
- Steering groups selection
- Number of focus groups to be delivered
- Timeline of delivery
- Cost implications
- Platform for e-panels
- Other resources needed (internal and external)

The deliberative processes aim to help better understand the views of our residents on the council's response to climate change, while raising the profile of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and encouraging residents to engage more with its existing actions, though ultimately helping to identify new actions to close the carbon emissions shortfall identified in the CEAP. Therefore, key topics will include:

- Driving less – reducing car ownership, modal shift to public transport, walking and cycling more, transitioning to electric vehicles
- Energy – reduce energy consumption by adopting better behaviours, improving our homes, adopting green technologies
- Waste - reduce the amount of waste generated and improve our recycling behaviours

- Food - eat less meat and dairy products, consume seasonable produce
- Conscious consumption - shop local, use less plastic, avoid fast fashion, staycation
- Support biodiversity - plant or adopt a tree, support local gardens, give home to nature

## 2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

*To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

## 3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

*For information on how to define No, low or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.*

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

*For details on what constitutes a positive impact, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Gender:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Disabilities:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Age:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Sexual orientation:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Religion/belief:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.

Gender re-assignment:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.
Marriage and civil partnership:	No/Neutral	All of the residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by this new aim of Wokingham Borough being net-zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this it demonstrates our desire to include them in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project will increase the likelihood of achieving this target in multiple ways, resulting in positive environmental changes that will improve the quality of life of all our residents and help to avoid the impacts of climate change.

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by

Rhian Hayes

Date: 14 June 2021