

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Community Deliberative Process Proposal for the Climate Emergency

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:	3/09/2021
Service:	Housing & Place Commissioning
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	Community Deliberative Process Proposal for the Climate Emergency
Completed by:	Tabitha Shell
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	No
Signed off by:	Diana Tovar
Sign off date:	3/09/2021

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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:
The Community Deliberative Process will engage key stakeholders and a wide range of residents in discussions around the climate emergency and put forward recommendations to overcome our biggest challenges as a council in achieving net zero carbon by 2030. Expected outcomes of this process are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To empower residents, businesses, local organisations, schools and stakeholders to be part of the Borough’s net-zero carbon 2030 vision.• To both support and improve the council’s response to the climate emergency, engaging the community and encouraging greater participation in the actions.• To develop a greater understanding of the community’s priorities in tackling the climate emergency that will inform decision making.

- To identify the key drivers and motivations for each audience so that our actions can be tailored to deliver improvements in these areas and encourage behavioural change.
- To generate recommendations for actions to achieve net zero carbon.
- To create a network of climate champions that will share learning and best practice.

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 Wokingham Borough Council Climate Team leads on the implementation and update of the CEAP, with cooperation from multiple departments across the council in delivering the actions. This **Climate Emergency Officers Group** meets monthly and is attended by officers from across all of the departments in the council. This group has been consulted with and informed of the project. Several of these officers will also be asked to take part in this deliberative process to make up one of the deliberative peer groups.

The Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee **Task and Finish Group** is made up of members to scrutinise the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan, emerging targets and key performance indicators underpinning the Action Plan. This group will be used to provide member oversight of this community deliberative process and ensure the design of the process is being followed. **Members** will also be invited to take part in the deliberative process itself.

Executive members are aware of this project as the Climate Emergency Community Deliberative Processes Options Appraisal Report was approved by Executive on 29th July 2021 with the commitment to present a proposal to Executive in October to establish the financial implications, timelines and expected outcomes from this process. Executive members are therefore informed of and the lead member for the climate emergency, **Cllr Gregor Murray** has been consulted during the development of this project proposal.

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

External stakeholders in the process will include the participants, including residents, young people, teachers, the business community, the voluntary sector, town and parish clerks, members and council officers and these are all the main beneficiaries of the project.

By delivering this community deliberative process, the council is demonstrating our commitment to engaging all of our residents and all sectors of the community in the climate emergency and working together to tackle the particular challenges within the borough. Recommendations will inform the climate emergency action plan while improving our transparency in detailing how we are planning to achieve net zero carbon.

This extensive engagement opportunity will allow for increased engagement in the climate emergency agenda and therefore increase participation with the actions in the climate emergency action plan and sustainable behaviour change associated with those actions.

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

The community deliberative process is designed to engage the community and key stakeholders in address the main challenges for Wokingham Borough in reaching net zero carbon by 2030 as well as taking initial steps to identify how sustainable behaviour change can be achieved. The process aims to identify the key motivations and barriers for the participants in taking steps to reduce their carbon footprints and how to council can support residents and businesses to make use of opportunities and overcome these barriers.

Although this is an engagement activity for the climate emergency, the overall aims of the project remain the same as the climate emergency action plan. The council has identified eight key priority areas (below) to focus on for reducing carbon dioxide emissions which are listed below, however, work is not exclusively limited to these areas.

The Council's Key Priorities for Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions to Net Zero by 2030

1. Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Transport
2. Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Domestic and Business Property
3. Generate more Renewable Energy in the Borough
4. Create a Local Plan that Specifies Net Zero Construction and Infrastructure
5. Increase the Levels of Carbon Sequestration the Borough Through Greening the Environment
6. Engage with Young People and Support Sustainable Schools
7. Reduce Waste Sent to Landfill
8. Encouraging Behaviour Change

Sustainable behaviour change is vital, alongside local authority intervention, to achieve these priorities. 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 residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Gender:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Disabilities:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Age:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Sexual orientation:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders in decision making, alongside our commitment to achieving the net zero goal. Completing this project

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Religion/belief:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Gender re-assignment:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.
Marriage and civil partnership:	No/Neutral	All residents and businesses of Wokingham Borough will be equally and positively impacted by Wokingham Borough being net zero carbon by 2030. By delivering this project, it demonstrates the council's desire to engage residents and all stakeholders 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. When delivering this project, the council will ensure the deliberative peer groups and the e-panel are as inclusive and representative of all residents.

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 of 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...

Diana Tovar

Date: 3 September 2021

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