



## Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (January 2021)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Jennifer Mckeown- Environmental Health Officer

**Email address:** jennifermckeown@wirral.gov.uk

**Head of Section:** Deeta Cooper- Senior Manager Environmental Health

**Chief Officer:** Jason Gooding - Director of Neighbourhoods

**Directorate:** Neighbourhood Services

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

#### Revocation and update of Smoke Control Areas

The Revocation and update of Smoke Control Areas across Wirral will assist when attempting to reach targets to reduce the impact of air pollution across the borough and support the government's long-term air quality goals, including a steep percentage reduction in population exposure to particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

### Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

Yes / No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

TOURISM COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE - Thursday 7th  
March 2024

Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

### Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)



Services

- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:**

**Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?**

**You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.**

**Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.**

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
All	Negative - We recognise that some people may need information in different languages and or formats.	We will ensure that any information is available in different languages and formats upon request and within a reasonable timeframe. We will be clear on how the public can request information.	Deeta Cooper	We have a call-off contract which can be accessed through Procurement	There may be a cost for translation and interpretation services
All	Positive - It is accepted that some people who have protected characteristics may be affected differently and disproportionately by health inequality.	The new Smoke Control Order aims to improve health outcomes by reducing fine particulate matter pollution which will in turn improve Air Quality across the borough.	Deeta Cooper	Ongoing	Capacity building  No change to current staffing arrangements.
All	Negative- there could be a negative impact for residents suffering fuel poverty, specifically	Foraged fuels are unsuitable for burning in a domestic	Deeta Cooper	Ongoing	Staffing resource to

	those who are driven to “foraging” for wood in parks and gardens to burn in their properties for heat.	property and there is a risk to the residents’ health from poor indoor air quality, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire. Those affected most by poor air quality are people with existing medical conditions, the young and the elderly and so these groups will receive the greatest positive benefit.			keep publicised information up to date and accurate.
Age	Older people may not have access to the internet to gather information about what parts of the borough are covered by the smoke control area.	Publicise the Smoke Control Order so members of the public are informed and can plan accordingly.  Use of local media, council website, council comms department, the London Gazette, Local Newspapers and signage on community notice boards.	Deeta Cooper	Ongoing	Cost of launching the Smoke Control Order including advertising, resource materials.  Staffing resource to keep publicised information up to date and accurate.
All	Positive - Authorised solid fuels are designed to be more efficient when burnt so are cheaper than using coal and therefore there will not be negative financial impact for most residents.	Residents will be signposted to government and charitable organisations for advice regarding fuel poverty as part of the public consultation and related material.	Deeta Cooper	Ongoing	Staffing resource to keep publicised information up to date and accurate.

**Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Equality implications will be monitored at Air Quality Steering Group meetings. Publicised signposting for members of the public would then require updating to ensure current and accurate information is available.

**Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

**Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?**

1. Smoke Control Area Enforcement by Local Authorities in England: Statutory Guidance
2. Wirral Air Quality Strategy, 2024 – 2028, A four-year vision to improve air quality in Wirral.
3. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
4. Chief Medical Officers Annual Report 2022. Air Quality

**Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

**Yes /No** – (please delete as appropriate)

**If ‘yes’ please continue to section 7.**

**If ‘no’ please state your reason(s) why:**

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?**

The proposal to implement a borough wide Smoke Control Order will follow the consultation process outlined in the Committee Report. Members of the public will be invited to have their say by using an online survey on the “Have Your Say” Platform and responding in writing, by email or by telephone for a period of no less than 6 weeks from the last publication on the notice for any objections to be raised.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it’s legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing.

**Section 8: Have you remembered to:**

- a) **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c) **Send this EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**