

Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1: Executive Summary	
1.1	<p>Title of policy (or decision)</p> <p>ECC's Response to the Essex Climate Action Commission's Report <i>Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral</i></p>
1.2	<p>Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) was established by Essex County Council (ECC) in 2020 to provide the county with expertise and guidance in tackling climate change. The Commission's report – <i>Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral</i> – developed a series of recommendations for public and third sector organisations, businesses, communities and residents in Essex to reach net zero by 2050; to build resilience to our already changing climate; and to take pro-active steps to safeguard the environment and ensure sustainability. 2. The <i>Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral</i> report is built around six core themes: Land Use and Green Infrastructure; Energy; The Built Environment; Transport; Waste; and Community Engagement. 3. ECC has prepared a response to the Commission recommendations – setting out its climate action plan – which outlines the steps ECC is taking in response to the Commission recommendations across the core themes. This action plan will enable ECC to begin to achieve its strategic aims under <i>Everyone's Essex</i>. 4. ECC is committed to embedding climate action across all aspects of its service delivery and partnership work. The ECC climate action plan is an initial response to the ECAC report and the first steps in its strategic aims. There are multiple aspects to ECC's response to the Commission report (see cabinet report for key themes and annex for detail). However, the ECC plan is not exhaustive. ECC will continue to develop its climate action plan in the future. 5. ECC seeks commitments from its partners, public sector and private sector organisations across Essex to tackle the climate crisis and to help Essex deliver the Commission recommendations. <p>What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve? Refer to strategic aims / strategic priorities in Organisation Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Everyone's Essex</i> outlines four strategic aims: Strong, Inclusive & Sustainable Economy; High Quality Environment; Health, Wellbeing & Independence for All

	<p>Ages; and A Good Place for Children & Families to Grow. Each of these strategic aims has five key commitments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Under a High Quality Environment, the five key commitments are to: Net Zero; Transport & Built Environment; Minimise Waste; Levelling Up the Environment; and Green Community. Under a Strong, Inclusive & Sustainable Economy, one of the five key commitments is to Green Growth. 3. The ECC climate plan will ensure that we are taking action to meet the commitments under a High Quality Environment (see Annex). ECC will report quarterly or annually on Key Performance Indicators for these key objectives, which will enable progress to be tracked effectively. 4. While the ECC climate action plan has direct implications for a High Quality Environment, it also supports other strategic aims such as Strong, Inclusive Sustainable Growth, with core actions supporting green growth in particular but also good jobs; Health, Wellbeing and Independence for all Ages; and A Great Place for Children and families to Grow as detailed in the Annex. A range of measures in the action plan including: the retrofitting properties to meet Net Zero; the growth of electric vehicle use (including associated infrastructure); and increased green space, are all included in the Commission's report. This will lead to outcomes which reap positive social, economic and environmental benefits, including job creation, improved health and sustainability. The action plan also includes elements that will support strategic Levelling up ambitions, such as upgrades for fuel poor homes.
1.3	<p>Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?</p> <p>Yes</p>

Section 2: Assessing the Equality Impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on equality groups. What is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy (or decision)? Consider any consultation / data as supporting evidence (eg service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information). An opportunity to explain impacts on specific protected groups is provided later on this form

The ECC climate plan will ensure that we are taking action to meet the commitments under a High Quality Environment (see Annex). ECC will report quarterly or annually on Key Performance Indicators for these key objectives, which will enable progress to be tracked effectively.

At this stage, specific equality assessment has not been undertaken. This will commence once plans are in place for specific initiatives, which will allow us to assess the potential impact on communities and particular demographics. Each initiative will be required to submit its own associated EqlA. These EqlAs will be collated and reviewed to develop an overarching view of the impact on equalities. This will ensure we are undertaking cumulative monitoring and that impacts on groups/communities are not viewed in isolation from one another.

It is recognised that climate change negatively impacts the poorest in society the most, despite them having to lowest carbon footprint. For example, often poorer communities are established in flood areas e.g. Jaywick; they can also have the least trees which provide shade from UV rays and ameliorate air pollution.

Campaigns to promote energy efficiency improvements are targeted at lower income, fuel poor households, as these homes are eligible for Government grant funding to cover retrofit costs. This funding will be lost if not sent within set timeframes.

Minimising the amount and range of materials printed to minimise the impact on the environment may exclude those members of society who do not have online access or devices. Similarly, online, virtual events and webinars may exclude those without sufficient or quality broadband access. ECC seeks to mitigate this via digital access provision in libraries.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employees	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect (e.g. Borough/City/District/All Essex)

All Essex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colchester	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basildon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Epping Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>
Braintree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harlow	<input type="checkbox"/>

Brentwood Castle Point Chelmsford	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Maldon Rochford Tendring Uttlesford	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?				Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?				Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?				Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please describe the steps you have taken to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet the digital accessibility requirements • test the accessibility of the website, system or application • maintain accessibility once it has gone live N/A					

Section 3: Description of Impact

Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (please explain your reasons)	Extent of impact Low, Medium, High (please explain your reasons)
Age	<p><i>Please see 'mitigating actions' section below.</i></p> <p>Increased Natural Green Infrastructure will increase access to greenspace, which benefits older people and increases their opportunities to exercise</p> <p>Increased provision of safe walking and cycling routes – particularly around schools – will make it easier for people of all ages to use active travel</p> <p>A lot of young people find the cost of owning a car prohibitive but still need to be able to travel to where they need to get to. Increased walking and cycle routes will support this.</p>	<p>High: as regular exercise in green space has considerable proven benefits</p>
Disability – learning disability		<p>TBD (via initiative-based EqIAs): new infrastructure being installed can pose a risk to those with a physical disability or sensory loss. Mitigation is comms/community engagement etc.</p>
Disability – mental health issues	<p>Increased Natural Green Infrastructure will increase access to greenspace which benefit mental health</p> <p>Increased provision of safe walking and cycling routes will allow more walking and cycling,</p>	<p>High: as regular exercise in green space has considerable proven benefits</p> <p>TBD (via initiative-based EqIAs): new infrastructure being installed can pose a risk to those with a physical disability or</p>

	proven to benefit physical and mental wellbeing	sensory loss. Mitigation is comms/community engagement etc.
Disability – physical impairment	Increased provision of safe walking and cycling routes, and improved public transport will make it safer and easier for everyone to use sustainable transport. All infrastructure would meet DDA best practice.	High
Disability – sensory impairment	Increased Natural Green Infrastructure will increase access to greenspace which increase natural complementary sensory experiences	High: as regular exercise in green space has considerable proven benefits
Gender / Sex		
Gender reassignment		
Marriage / civil partnership		
Pregnancy / maternity		
Race	Increased Natural Green Infrastructure will increase access to greenspace which benefits lower SEGs, which the ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented.	High: as regular exercise in green space has considerable proven benefits
Religion / belief		
Sexual orientation		
I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics.		

Section 4: Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqlA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If 'YES', use the space below to describe what mitigating actions you could put in place to address any adverse impacts identified
What are the mitigating actions?		Date they will be achieved?
<p>There is no immediate impact on protected characteristics following this Cabinet Paper. Where required, governance of the individual recommendations which Cabinet agreed were a priority will be progressed by the Directorates and Services actioning them.</p>		

Section 5: Sign off

**I confirm that this initial analysis has been completed appropriately.
(A typed signature is sufficient.)**

Signature of person completing the EqlA: D.Barry	Date: 15/11/21
Names and contact details: Daniel Barry (Daniel.Barry@essex.gov.uk)	
Your function, service area and team: Senior Strategy Adviser, Corporate Services, Strategy & Policy	
If you are submitting the EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team, specify the originating function, service or team area Environment & Climate Action	
Signature of Head of Service: Samantha Kennedy Director, Environment & Climate Action	Date: 15/11/21