

Diversity impact assessment

TITLE
Air Quality Active Travel and Public Health Task Group Review
DATE
September 2025
LEAD OFFICER.
1 Summary description of the proposed change What is the change to policy / service / new project that is being proposed? How does it compare with the current situation?
Implementation of the recommendations from the Air Quality, Public Transport and Active Travel Task Group Review. These changes aim to improve air quality, promote sustainable transport, and address public health concerns—particularly asthma—through targeted interventions, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced governance. The proposed changes build upon existing strategies but introduce new measures to strengthen accountability, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration
2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment E.g. Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user. E.g. Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile
Evidence was gathered through stakeholder events, roundtable discussions, and expert presentations involving Council officers, public health professionals, transport planners, and external partners including Camden Council. The review considered national and local data on air quality, health outcomes, and transport usage. Comparative analysis with other local authorities and case studies informed recommendations. The evidence highlights disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups and the need for targeted interventions
3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change? Is it likely to: Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)

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Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age	No	Yes	Yes
Disability	No	Yes	Yes
Gender reassignment	No	No	No
Marriage/civil partnership	No	No	No
Pregnancy/maternity	No	Yes	Yes
Race	No	Yes	Yes
Religion/belief	No	No	No
Sex	No	No	No
Sexual orientation	No	No	No
Care experience	No	Yes	Yes
Other (e.g. low income groups)	No	Yes	Yes

4 Summary of the likely impacts

Who will be affected?

How will they be affected?

The proposed changes will positively impact residents across Medway, particularly:

- Children and young people with asthma.
- Older adults and those with chronic respiratory conditions.
- Residents in areas with poor air quality and limited transport options.
- Communities experiencing health inequalities due to deprivation.

Improved air quality, safer streets, and better access to sustainable transport will enhance health outcomes and quality of life.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?

Are there alternative providers?

Can demand for services be managed differently?

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- Co-design of schemes with local communities to ensure relevance and support.
- Targeted communications through trusted messengers (e.g. healthcare professionals).
- Inclusion of air quality considerations in Council reporting templates.
- Development of training for staff on air quality and its health impacts.
- Partnership working with schools, NHS, and housing providers to raise awareness and promote behavioural change.

6 Action plan

Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
Monitoring and implementation of the recommendations	Public Health/ Environment/Transport	Ongoing
Progress report to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Regeneration Culture and Environments Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Public Health/ Environment/Transport Democratic Services	Ongoing
Renew Air Quality Communication Strategy	Public Health/ Environment	Q4 2025–26
Develop MECC training module on indoor air quality	Public Health/ Workforce Development	Q4 2025–26
Pilot 20mph zones in high-density residential areas	Transport & Parking	2026–27
Develop Kerbside Strategy	Climate Change	By 2028

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Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
	/ Transport	

7 Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be: to proceed with the change, implementing the Action Plan if appropriate, consider alternatives, gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

Proceed with the implementation of the proposed changes and associated action plan. The recommendations are based on robust evidence and stakeholder engagement. No adverse impacts have been identified that cannot be mitigated. The changes will advance equality, improve health outcomes, and foster good relations across Medway.

8 Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained, and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

Assistant Director

Date of authorisation