

EQIA-01497

Action being taken

EQIA Directorate

EQIA Service

EQIA Team

Details of person undertaking assessment

Your name

Jessica Kennedy

Your job title

Project Manager

Your directorate

Strategy and Partnerships Directorate

Your service

Programme and Service Improvement

Your team

Projects and Programmes

Proposal being assessed

Closer to Communities

Business plan proposal number

Proposal details

What is the name and description of the policy being assessed?

In February 2022, the Full Council of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed a comprehensive vision and set of ambitions designed to create a greener, fairer, and more caring Cambridgeshire. This vision, and the associated seven ambitions, have shaped the Council's business plan and informed how the council has allocated its budget.

Being Closer to Communities is fundamental to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Framework, it is woven throughout: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Business-Plan-Section-1-Strategic-Framework-2023-to-2028-Refresh-for-2024-to-2025.pdf.pdf>

In some cases, such as Ambition 4 (healthy, safe, and independent lives) being Closer to Communities is fundamental to the delivery of the ambition. In other areas, such as Ambition 2 (Safe, Sustainable Travel), there are significant opportunities to deliver better outcomes through enhanced partnerships with parish and town councils, resident groups, and communities to design and maintain travel networks. In all cases, working with communities strengthens the council's ability to achieve complex strategic ambitions in a way that is more relevant to our residents.

Being Closer to Communities is an approach that enables the Council to use its convening power to:

- Encourage active and engaged communities to enhance accountability and improve outcomes.
- Convene place-based working in partnership with the wider system of public and voluntary and community sector partners to tailor our services to meet local need.
- Integrate and simplify local services for the end user to improve access to these services.
- Make the best use of resources across the council and its partners to give confidence to residents that we are using public money effectively.
- Create opportunities for a stronger strategic alignment across public sector partners to work better together.

In July 2023, Cambridgeshire County Council took a significant step forward by driving the development of a range of pilot projects designed to test out aspects of how to bring council services Closer to Communities.

Through the exploration of these pilot projects the County Council aimed to better understand how to create a more responsive, effective, and community-focused model of working with, and alongside, communities. This work will also result in recommendations to the organisation, about how they can integrate and build on successful work of working Closer to Communities.

What type of policy is this?

Minor change

Is this EqlA supporting a committee paper/business case?

Yes

Identifying impact on affected groups

Is it foreseeable that people from any protected characteristic group(s) or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities will be impacted by the implementation of this proposal (including during the change management process)?

Yes

If no, provide an explanation as to why this proposal will not have an impact on each of the following characteristic/group of people

Affected groups and impact

Age

Positive impact

Disability

Neutral impact

Gender reassignment

Neutral impact

Marriage/Civil Partnership

Neutral impact

Pregnancy and maternity

Neutral impact

Race

Neutral impact

Religion/Belief

Neutral impact

Sex

Neutral impact

Sexual orientation

Neutral impact

Care experience

Positive impact

Other identified groups

Neutral impact

You identified positive/negative impacts – please explain each one and supporting evidence

There are pilots in all directorates, which will impact upon all communities.

The impact on service user groups depends on the individual pilot.

Notable groups that will be affected in parts of the county are people accessing youth services, communities with an interest in green energy, care leavers, those living in (or at risk of) poverty.

It is understood that where appropriate, all pilots will have completed an EQIA for their own work.

Evidence and analysis

State if any mitigating actions are required to alleviate negative impacts. If positive equality impacts have been identified, consider what actions you can take to enhance them. If you have decided to justify and continue with the

policy despite negative equality impacts, provide your justification. If you are to stop the policy, explain why. Briefly describe the actions then please insert actions to be taken on to the given action plan

Action plan

Identified Impact Protected Characteristic or non-legislative factor

This information was taken from engagement with the leads on the pilot projects.

In general, these projects are designed to tackle specific, localised inequalities by tailoring services to local circumstances, and therefore the equalities impact of a successful pilot will clearly be positive.

For the general portfolio we anticipate the following positive impacts as a result of individual pilots: Reduced levels of smoking Improved support for care leavers and young people Greater economic opportunity and improved health outcomes for people living in poorer areas of the county Targeted support for people affected by the cost of living crisis Wider access to cheaper, renewable energy. More broadly, this programme will support the county council to work more closely with communities to deliver targeted, co-designed support that meets the needs of their place.

The identified impact on the protected groups will have been identified through the EQIA per pilot.

Action

Expected outcomes

Officer

Completion date

Did you engage with an EqIA super-user when developing your EqIA?

Yes

Approval details

Head of service

Lisa Riddle

Head of service email

Lisa.Riddle@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Status

Approved