

## Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	Further Heat network expansion and utilisation of the floating harbour to provide zero carbon heat.
Directorate and Service Area	Growth and Regeneration, Energy Services
Name of Lead Officer	Paul Barker

### Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

#### 1.1 What is the proposal?

Bristol Council are constructing heat networks to enable decarbonisation of heat across the city in support of the Council's Carbon neutrality aims. These work by installing pipes underground to transport heated water to buildings that then use this for heating and hot water. In order to heat the water energy centres are required where a combination of technologies are used with low/zero carbon being of highest importance. This cabinet request is specifically related to:

- Capital funding to progress the Old Market Heat Network including a Water Source Heat Pump (WSHP) led energy centre.
- Additional capital funding to expand the Redcliffe Heat Network to include additional building connections in line with developer timeframes.
- Provide match funding to fund early elements of additional heat networks where developer timeframes require connections prior to City Leap

### Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

## 2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Two of the key aims of our Business Plan 2019-20 are: ‘Reducing our environmental impact by using clean energy, improving air quality and reducing waste and pollution’; and ‘Tackling food and fuel poverty’.

Climate change and the risk it poses for the future resilience of our city (for example in terms of increased flood risk) affect all citizens and in particular people living in poverty and those experiencing multiple sources of inequality because of their protected characteristics.

The Bristol Quality of Life Survey indicates that young people, carers and people of White minority ethnicity are less likely to be satisfied with the cost of heating their home than average residents.

There is also a marked difference in the extent to which Tenants of Private Landlords (41.9%) compared to Council Tenants (49.4%) and Housing Association Tenants (49.3%) are satisfied with the cost of heating their home.

% satisfied with the cost of heating their home

<b>Equalities Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
16 to 24 years	42.4%
50 years and older	50.4%
65 years and older	58.3%
Female	46.7%
Male	46.8%
BME (Black and Minority Ethnicity)	45.8%
WME (White Minority Ethnicity)	36.9%
Carer	43.5%
Disabled	43.3%
LGB (Lesbian Gay Bisexual)	51.4%
No religion or faith	45.4%
Religion or faith	51.0%
<b>Bristol Average</b>	<b>46.8%</b>
<b>Type of Tenancy</b>	
Council Tenants	49.4%
Housing Association Tenants	49.3%
Owner Occupiers	48.7%
Tenants of Private Landlords	41.9%
<b>Bristol Average</b>	<b>46.8%</b>

*source: Quality of Life in Bristol survey  
2018-19*

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

We know that there are gaps in our diversity data for some protected characteristics citywide, especially where this has not historically been included in census and statutory reporting e.g. for sexual orientation.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

We are planning on progressing to submitting a planning application, likely to start with pre-application, in mid-August which will then be followed by a full planning application which will include public consultation. To this stage internal teams including; Culture, City Design, Housing, Parks and Property have been included in the design process.

### **Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?**

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

No significant negative impacts have been identified at this stage (before public consultation). However we need to ensure that the Heat Network expansion meets the different needs of Bristol's diverse population and that works are not disruptive to citizen's access to affected areas.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

We will work with building designers and developers to ensure that equality impacts are considered throughout the process and minimise any disruption from Heat Network Expansion works. The proposed Castle Park Depot development is not expected to reduce citizens' access to green space or impact on the accessibility of established pedestrian routes as it will be in an area of Castle Park which is not currently accessible to the public.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

Developments connected to the network will have lower energy costs for the provision of heat, therefore supporting people in fuel poverty.

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

The proposal provides a wider positive impact to reduce the effects of climate change.

#### Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?
At this stage (pre-consultation) the EqIA has identified differences in the extent to which equalities groups are affected by fuel poverty and highlighted the need to minimize disruption to all citizens including disabled people throughout works.
4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?
A full planning process which will include public consultation
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?
Reduction in the percentage of the population living in fuel poverty Reduction in the total CO2 emissions in Bristol

Service Director Sign-Off: 	Equalities Officer Sign Off: <b>Reviewed by Equalities and Community Cohesion Team</b>
Date: 05/08/2019	Date: <b>29/7/2019</b>