

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 to Bedminster and Temple Heat Networks
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:

- Develop and build phase 1 of the Temple Heat Network
- Design and develop phase 1 of the Bedminster Heat Network

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

Equalities Group	Percentage
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%
Bristol Average	46.8%
Type of Tenancy	
Council Tenants	49.4%
Housing Association Tenants	49.3%
Owner Occupiers	48.7%
Tenants of Private Landlords	41.9%
Bristol Average	46.8%

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?
All new construction will be subject to planning applications to start with pre-application, 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.
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: Patsy Mellor	Equalities Officer Sign Off: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>
Date:31/01/2020	Date: 28/1/2020