

Kibworth Air Quality Management Area Action Plan - September 2018

Harborough District Council Equality Impact Statement

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been prepared by Harborough District Council as part of our statutory duties under part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The plan outlines the actions we are proposing to undertake to improve air quality within the Kibworth Air Quality Management Area between 2019 and 2031.

There is often a strong correlation between air pollution levels and equality issues, because areas with poor air quality are quite often less affluent areas^{1,2} although this is not the situation with regards to local air quality in the Kibworths.

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts and particularly affects those who may be the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. The annual health cost to UK society of the impacts of particulate matter alone is estimated to be around £16 billion³. Harborough District Council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in Harborough District to poor air quality in order to improve health.

The main contributing factor to air pollution levels in this area is traffic flow. There are 20 affected households within the Kibworth Air Quality Management Area. The characteristics of the individual residents within these households is not known, so it is difficult to identify any equality related disadvantage at this time.

As this action plan is primarily concerned with traffic flow, we cannot foresee any negative impacts on any single community at present. However, when consulting with residents about the plan, we will be including several equality related monitoring questions so that we are able to determine the demographic of our responses and subsequently identify if any particular areas of concern are raised by any particular group of people. These questions are based around two of the nine protected characteristics which we feel may be impacted upon the most by air quality, this being age and disability. This information will also allow us to target particular groups of people if we feel that they have not been represented adequately in the responses to our consultation.

Whilst at present we, at Harborough District Council, do not believe that this proposed plan will have a negative equality related impact on any one of the protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010, if any negative impacts, or potential impacts are identified, as a consequence of our consultation or other information we receive, we will review and update this equality impact statement accordingly. A full equality analysis will also be completed if necessary.

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¹Environmental equity, air quality, socioeconomic status and respiratory health, 2010

² Air quality and social deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis, 2006

³ Defra. Abatement cost guidance for valuing changes in air quality, May 2013