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SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Chief Executive
Service Area	Policy and Performance
Service/policy/function being assessed	Richmond Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Richmond
Staff involved	Clare O'Connor, Andrew Hagger, Jamila Atta
Date approved by Directorate Equality Group (if applicable)	N/A
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	17th June 2019
Date submitted to Directors' Board	18th June 2019

SUMMARY

The Richmond Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy is intended to provide an overarching framework and set of priorities and actions to tackle climate change. This Strategy aims to highlight the work Richmond is already doing and what further action needs to be taken to help improve air quality, reduce energy consumption and overall CO_2 emissions as well as promote sustainability.

The overall aim of the climate and sustainability strategy is to:

- Ensure that we have our own house in order and are doing all we can to prevent climate change
- Ensure our services are resilient and adaptable enough to respond to the impacts of climate change
- Provide community leadership so that residents and businesses are able to get involved in preventing and preparing for climate change

The Strategy identifies 5 key areas where the Council can take action:

- Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency – We will reduce the Council's Carbon footprint by reducing our energy demand, increasing our energy efficiency. We will ensure Richmond is able to plan, measure and respond proactively to the effects of climate change and the implications of resource scarcity.
- Improving Air Quality – We will develop and deliver an ambitious air quality plan that will make a meaningful change to air quality in the borough with emphasis on reducing air pollution around schools, and town centres. We will lead by example shifting to cleaner modes of transport within our operations and developing policies and infrastructure that reduce pollution from transport and buildings in the borough.

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- Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – We will improve and protect the biodiversity and ecology of our green spaces and protect them against the negative impacts of climate change. We will maintain the parks and open spaces of Richmond as centres of excellence, make them fully accessible, ensuring high standards across all parks and opens spaces managed by the Council.
- Waste and Plastics and the Circular Economy **–** We will imbed reduce, reuse, recycle into everything Richmond does around waste. We will work with our residents, businesses and schools to reduce the overall amount of waste generated in the borough and will aim to be one of the top performing boroughs in London for recycling. We are committed to becoming single use plastic free in our operations by 2022 and will work with residents, businesses and schools to reduce consumption of single use plastics.
- Water Management and Flood Abatement – We will ensure that development across Richmond addresses flood risks and promotes sustainable drainage and is fully resilient to the future impacts of climate change.

By cross-referencing the protected characterestics with factors of climate change it becomes clear that not all residents will be impacted by climate change in the same way. Improving air quality within the borough will benefit young children, the elderly and BME communities living in poorer areas of the borough with worse air quality. Becoming single-use plastic free, while largely positive overall, brings up a range of issues for those disabled residents who may rely on single use plastic straws to drink safely and take medication, while others with severe medical conditions may not be able to use replacement or alternative straws (for example, individuals suffering from Celiac disease may not be able to use paper straws due to them containing gluten).

1. Background

The threat of climate change is both local and international and while the direct impact of climate change for Richmond may not be as severe as in developing countries or some coastal areas, there is a need to ensure that the borough is prepared for the adverse impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events, increased temperatures with risks to health form heat waves, greater pressure on water resources, damage to existing natural habitats, as well demand for increasingly limited resources.

Over the past few decades there have been efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which fuel climate change and try to prevent it having irreversible effect on the planet. The effects of climate change have an impact on the whole community but is likely to disproportionately effect those who fall within the protected characteristics.

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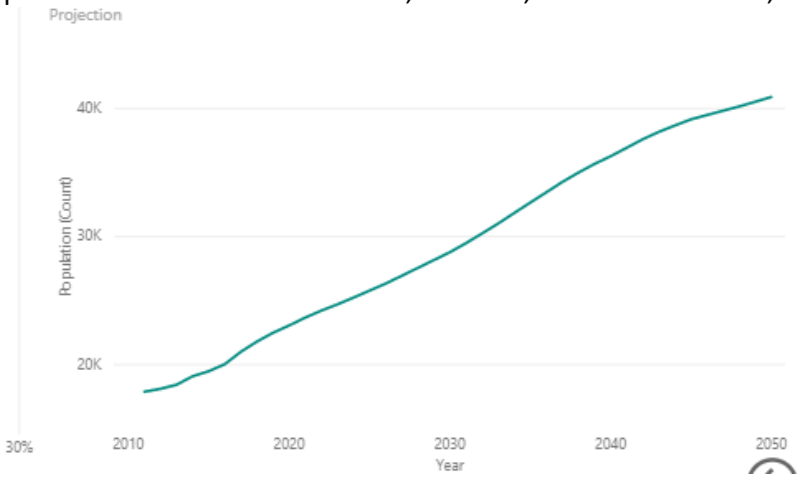
2. Analysis of need and impact

Protected group	Findings
Age	Public health England[1] has stated that 20 percent of homes are currently overheating in today's climate, and 90 percent of hospital wards are of a type prone to overheating. With an ageing, growing population and no intervention, these impacts will get considerably worse; for instance, heat-related deaths in the UK are projected to increase by around 250% to over 7,000 by the 2050s. As Richmond has an aging population is something that needs to be considered. Figure 1 below shows there is a predicted rise of 70+ residence, from 17,891 on 2011 to 40,889 in 2050.  *Figure 1- Predicted population increase in Richmond of 70+ y/o residence[2]* NHS data also highlights that heatwaves because of climate change will have a significant impact on elderly people, especially those over 75 and babies and young people. Research also highlights that a number of primary and secondary schools are in areas of severely high levels of poor air quality across London, with 4 in 10 children breathing toxic air[3]. This can have a negative effect on lung development in children and increase the number of children suffering with asthma. Pollution from diesel traffic causes 23,500 of the 40,000 premature deaths each year attributed to air pollution, with young people particularly vulnerable, according to figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Mayor of London highlighted in April 2019 that poor air quality is responsible for one of the biggest national health emergencies of our generation'[4].
Disability	As extreme weather conditions become more common place, issues of how to evacuate and relocate individuals with disabilities arise.

[1] https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/26/the-climate-change-act-10-years-on/

[2] https://www.datarich.info/population-slicer/

[3] https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/07/four-ten-children-breathing-toxic-air-school-run/

[4] https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/ulez-launches-in-central-london

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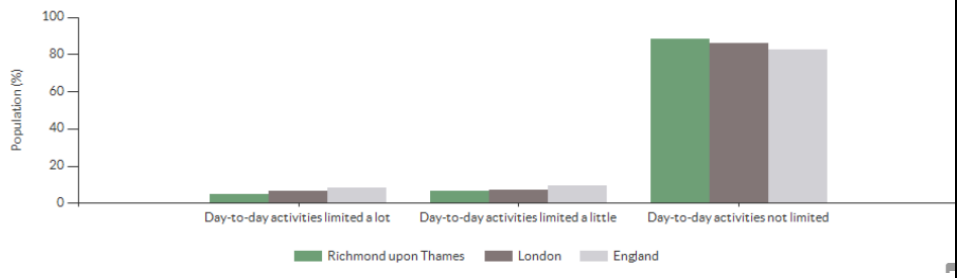
	Additionally, with weather extremes there are issues with diseases speeding at a faster rate. NHS data[5] highlights that heatwaves as a result of climate change will have a significant impact on people with serious chronic conditions especially heart and breathing problems. It will also have an impact on those with mobility issues e.g. Parkinsons as well as people with substance misuse.  *Figure 2- Day-to-day activity limited by disability in Richmond comparatively to London and England* Figure 2 highlights that Richmond has a lower percentage of disabled residents who are unable to carry out day to day activities. 88.5% of individuals are able to conduct day to day activities with ease compared to 85.8% of people across London and 82.4% of England.[6]
Gender (sex)	Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a greater impact on the poor and most vulnerable – 70% of the world's poor are women. Studies by Brown university[7] have shown that fertility of men (production of sperm) and mating behaviour are sensitive to the development of temperature increase.
Gender reassignment	
Marriage and civil partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	Pregnant women are at particular risk of poor air quality and particulate matter.
Race/ethnicity	In a report published by the Mayor of London, ethnicity and exposure to air pollution has been looked at in depth. Areas of London where people from mixed or multiple ethnic groups were more likely to live were also more likely to have higher levels of NO2, whereas those areas where white residents were more likely to live were more likely to have lower concentrations. The mayors study showed that black, African and Caribbean people account for 15.3% of all Londoners exposed to

[5] https://www.nhs.uk/livewell/summerhealth/documents/heatwave%20plan%202009.pdf
[6] https://www.datarich.info/health-and-social-care/
[7] https://www.brown.edu/academics/economics/sites/brown.edu.academics.economics/files/uploads/Galor%20The%20Impact%20of%20Climate%20Change%20on%20Fertility.pdf

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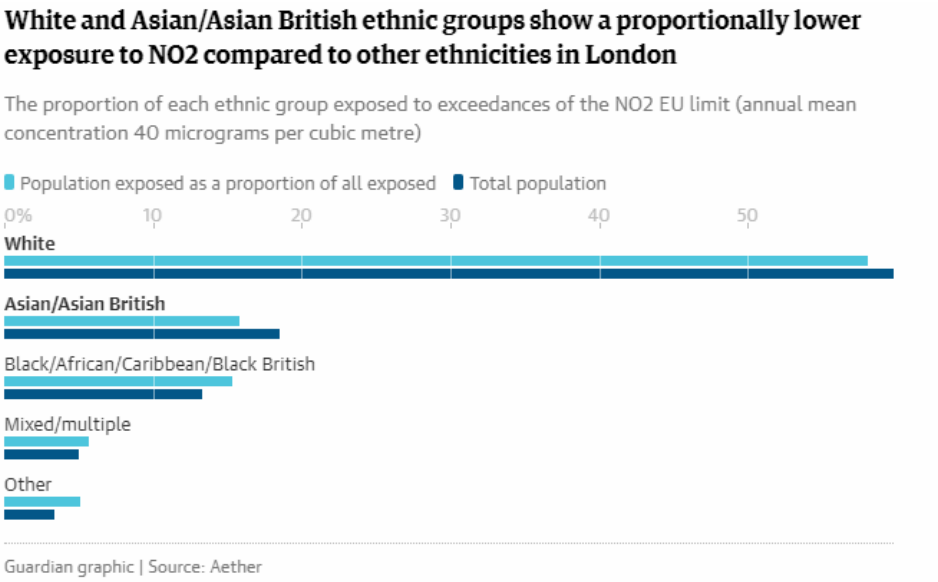
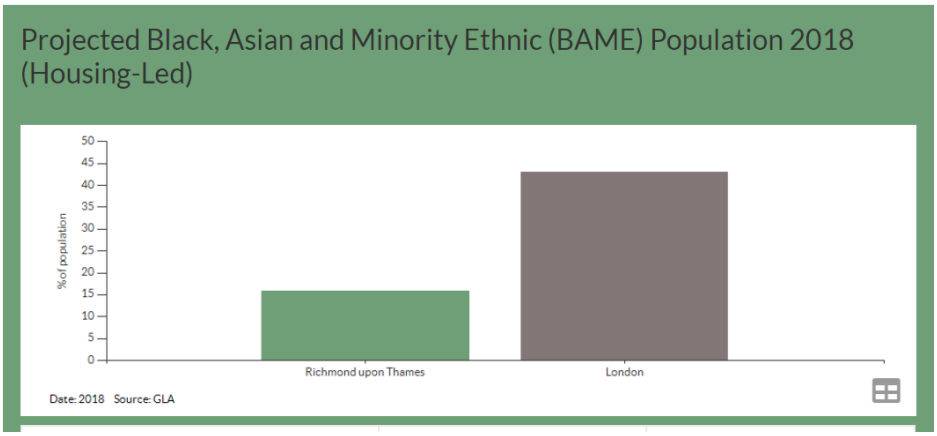
	nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels that breach EU limits, but they account for just 13.3% of the city's population[8]. The Mayor stated that improving London's air quality is a social justice issue as well as a public health matter.[9]  *Figure 3- Ethnic groups total population compared to population exposed to poor air quality in London*  *Figure 4- Richmond's percentage of BAME community compared to London in 2018* Figure 4 shows that Richmond has a low percentage of BAME residence (15.9%) compared to London (43.1%).[10]
Religion and belief, including non-belief	No data found

[8] https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/10/londons-black-communities-disproportionately-exposed-to-air-pollution-study

[9] https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/new-report-highlights-findings

[10] https://www.datarich.info/population/

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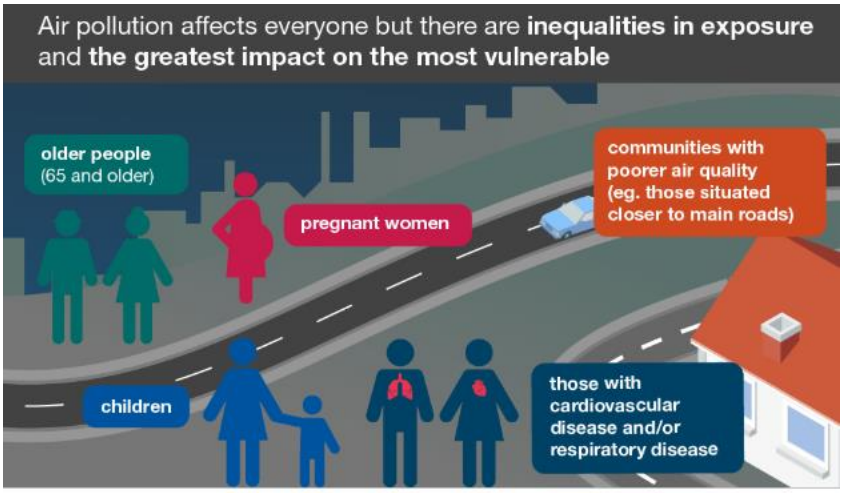
Sexual orientation	No data found
Across groups i.e older LGBT service users or bme young men	Air pollution is an international problem that affects everyone, but almost always the most socioeconomically disadvantaged suffer most from the health effects of pollution. Other groups disproportionately affected include older people, children, pregnant women, individuals with existing medical condition.  *Figure 5- Air pollution inequalities*

Data gaps.

Data gap(s)	How will this be addressed?

3. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	The Air Quality Action Plan will reduce levels of air pollution in the borough, improving the health of elderly residents and school children in Richmond. Ensuring that we move towards becoming more resilient with coping with heatwaves and the overall effects of climate change will ensure that young children and the elderly don't experience	None identified

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	poorer health outcomes as a result of extreme weather.	
Disability	Ensuring that the borough has adequate flood mitigation in place ensures that residence in the borough will not have difficulties with having to relocate or evacuate their properties. Ensuring that we move towards becoming more resilient in coping with heatwaves and the overall effects of climate change will ensure that people with disabilities who may be disproportionately affected by extreme weather events don't experience poorer health outcomes.	Becoming single use plastic free may have a negative effect on individuals in the borough with disabilities that rely on products such as single use straws that can bend, don't allow too much liquid through and can be used with any temperature drink/medication[11]. Paper straws can also contain gluten which cause issues for people suffering from coeliac disease or have non-coeliac gluten sensitivity[i].
Gender (sex)	None identified	None identified
Gender reassignment	None identified	None identified
Marriage and civil partnership	None identified	None identified
Pregnancy and maternity	Ensuring that we move towards becoming more resilient with coping with heatwaves and the overall effects of climate change ensure that pregnant women don't experience strained health as a result of extreme weather.	None identified
Race/ethnicity	Improvements to air quality in LSOA's will improve overall air quality in areas of the borough where there are higher concentrations of BME populations	None identified
Religion and belief, including non belief	None identified	None identified
Sexual orientation	None identified	None identified

[11] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/09/disabled-person-plastic-straws-baby-wipes

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4. Actions

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Investigate the impact of reducing single use plastic straw usage and its impact on those who, for medical or disability related reasons, need to use them, incorporate findings into the strategy.	Jamila Atta	September 2019

5. Consultation. (optional section– as appropriate)

Consultation on the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy will take place over the summer and early autumn of 2019.

[i] https://www.celiackidsconnection.org/2019/01/21/eco-friendly-straws-and-gluten/