

# Interim Equality Analysis Report - Climate Change Community Engagement Consultation

## Details of proposal:

Consultation to run in the summer – focusing on climate change and how residents would like to be involved with the Council on this topic going forward.

## Ramifications of Proposal:

The consultation results will help determine the Council's Climate Change Community Engagement Plan.

## Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

All Sefton residents, businesses and visitors will be impacted by climate change – including all those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. This will either be directly, for example, feeling the effects of increased flooding or heatwaves, or indirectly through changes in Government Policy such as the abolition of gas boiler in homes and of petrol/diesel vehicles. But it is arguably the most vulnerable who feel the impact more as they are less able to adapt.

However, because climate change is such a vast topic, this consultation has been kept very narrow. Meaning that the consultation itself is not focusing on any policy changes/decisions. Therefore, the equality impact of the consultation is low.

The impact on protected groups from this specific consultation are set out below alongside their mitigation action.

*The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:*

- *Age – Climate Change is an emotive topic and the Council have committed to engaging young people with this agenda. However, young people tend to be less engaged with Council activities than older people. To help boost responses from Young People, we have been working with Sefton Young Advisors to help shape the questions we ask, guide where we advertise (e.g. Instagram and in schools) and encourage young people to engage.*
- *Disability- The questionnaire will be primarily online, in easy read format. We will offer a paper copy to be sent out at request. We will host three drop-in sessions across the Borough to allow those who are not able to complete online the chance to respond. The drop-in sessions will be advertised extensively online and with posters in community centres and hubs. The sessions will be attended by an officer working in the climate change field to provide support/discussion of the topic. The drop-in session will be held in fully accessible locations for those with mobility issues.*
- *Gender Reassignment – No Impact Identified*
- *Marriage and Civil Partnership– No Impact Identified*
- *Race– No Impact Identified*

- *Religion or Belief– No Impact Identified*
- *Sex– No Impact Identified*
- *Sexual Orientation– No Impact Identified*
- *Pregnancy and Maternity– No Impact Identified*

### **Consultation:**

We propose to include the Council's Diversity Monitoring Form for this consultation to help us capture and understand if there are any protected groups who have not engaged in the process. If we find there are groups underrepresented, we will take steps to rectify this.

The materials produced will be easy read and easy to access. Paper versions will be sent out on request as will translated versions.

While we primarily want responses online, we will host three drop-in sessions in the Borough. We will ensure the venues are fully accessible to those with mobility issues and the sessions will be advertised extensively (for example, posters up in community centres, leisure centres etc as well as online).

Climate change is a vast topic and can be complex, therefore an experienced officer, working on climate change will attend the drop-in events to talk through the consultation with individuals on a 1-2-1 basis. The questions at the drop-in sessions will be the same as those on-line but there will be additional support available should it be needed.

To help boost responses from Young People, we have been working with Sefton Young Advisors to help shape the questions we ask, guide where we advertise (e.g. Instagram and in schools) and encourage young people to engage.

When the consultation is complete and the Climate Change Community Engagement Plan is developed, this may have more of a direct impact on some of the protected groups and at that point we will carry out another separate Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will be met?**

The Equality Act 2010 requires will be met.

### **What actions will follow if proposal accepted by cabinet & Council?**

- Include the Council's Diversity Monitoring Form
- Easy read documents
- Translation copies and printed copies available on request

- In person drop- in sessions being held as well as online (at accessible locations)
- Working directly with Sefton Young Advisors