


## Equality and Safety Impact

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	<b>Thornhill District Heating Scheme</b>
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	Creation of a new District Heating Scheme in Thornhill providing heating and hot water to 904 properties across 54 Housing blocks. 694 properties are currently electrically heated which is expensive and uncontrollable. 400 ‘non-traditional’ properties will also benefit from external wall insulation, new windows and roofs to improve the thermal performance of the buildings. The public realm around the three tower blocks will also be redesigned and improved to provide for enhanced and useable public space to improve these neglected areas in keeping with other projects already undertaken. Total project budget will be approx. £21m of which £4.19m will be contributed through grant funding from the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the quality of over 900 homes through the provision of a new, efficient and controllable heating and provide external cladding to over 400 of those properties which are some of the hardest to heat in the city;</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Positive Impacts</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle the fuel poverty suffered by households in one of the most deprived wards within Southampton by giving residents more control over the cost they pay to heat their homes;</li> <li>• Improve the health and wellbeing of over 900 families by improving their thermal comfort and reducing damp, mould and condensation which are all recognised to have long term impacts on health; and</li> <li>• Deliver opportunities for development of skills, training and employment in the local area through our ECO Partners supply chain and commitment to the local economy.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Geoff Miller, Housing Investment Manager
<b>Date</b>	6 November 2014

<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	Nick Cross, Head of Housing Services
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	6 November 2014

### Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
<b>Age</b>	The scheme will include some supported housing and general needs flats occupied by residents over 60 and it will improve the ability for them to have affordable and controllable heating and hot water ensuring their health and wellbeing is supported. Keeping warm in older age significantly reduces the risk of CPD.	

<b>Disability</b>	<p>There will significant building work and pipe laying across the estate which may present a hazard to those with mobility issues.</p> <p>The public realm surround the tower blocks will be improved enhancing access to residents with a disability to the public space</p>	Safe systems of work and Highways standards applied to ensure trenches, holes and other hazards are appropriately fenced off.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	none	
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	none	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	Some of the building work will include activity that generates dust.	Agreed access arrangements with residents to ensure impacts are minimised to all vulnerable residents
<b>Race</b>	none	
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	none	
<b>Sex</b>	none	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	none	
<b>Community Safety</b>	The areas around the tower blocks will be improved to make them more attractive and safer places for residents.	
<b>Poverty</b>	<p>Thornhill is one of the most deprived wards in Southampton. Providing a cheaper and more controllable heating and hot water system to 904 properties will help reduce both fuel and child poverty giving residents more disposable income for their families.</p> <p>£21m investment in the local area will support significant opportunities for training, skills and employment for residents.</p>	<p>SCC will ensure that the Operate and Maintain contract for the heating and hot water retains utility costs at below those which a resident could achieve independently.</p> <p>An Employment and Skills plan will be developed to maximise the opportunities for local residents.</p>
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>	Being harder to heat the 400 properties of 'non-traditional' construction tend to suffer more with damp, condensation and	

	<p>mould which are potentially detrimental to health. The new heating and insulation of these properties should dramatically reduce the incidents of such issues occurring improving the health of the residents.</p>	
	<p>There will be significant building and construction work across the estate for up to two years which will be disruptive to everyday life</p>	<p>Significant time will be invested in community consultation and engagement throughout the project and specific resources are being allocated from the Council and the Contractor to manage the access processes needed during the project with a view to keeping the disruption to the lowest level possible.</p>