

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Schools Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete in Schools

Responsible Officer

Lee Round - CY EPA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Infrastructure

Responsible Head of Service

James Sanderson - DCED INF

Responsible Director

Rebecca Spore - DCED INF

Aims and Objectives

Introduction:

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) was used for at least 25 years in buildings across the Country. Locally concerns manifested following the unexpected ceiling collapse at Singlewell School in 2019, leading KCC to raise concerns nationally.

Following this issue, Kent County Council (KCC) commissioned a validation exercise undertaking checks at schools for which KCC had responsibility. If concerns were raised, actions were taken to monitor and address the concerns.

Recently, following change to the Institute of Structural Engineers guidance, four schools with identified RAAC were closed temporarily and arrangements put in place to ensure the continued education of their pupils via a variety of actions. These are only short term measures, to ensure the safety of pupils staff and visitors, while structural works are undertaken to enable the schools to reoccupy affected school buildings.

Aims:

Significant funding will be required to complete the structural works thus allowing thus schools to be reoccupied. As such the the request is that the delegated Cabinet Members:

1. Agree capital funding that can be drawn down on to fund the emergency response and strengthening works that are required.

2. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Democratic Services to finalise and enter into the necessary contracts, funding and legal agreements and take other actions as necessary to implement this decision.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Consultation with school leaders of the schools where emergency works are required is on going.

Local Members have been informed where a school is within their division.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

The emergency works were completed at schools where RAAC was identified and classed as a 'Red Risk.' These schools were closed for 3 days at most, minimising the disruption to the education of all pupils. However, the current temporary arrangements could potentially have negative effects for those with a disability, who have special educational needs or are pregnant.

Releasing funding for the emergency response works and the strengthening works will have a positive impact for all groups as school buildings will be reopened swiftly, minimising the impact of using temporary accommodation.

The continuing review of the school estate will enable KCC to identify where RAAC is present and will ensure that remedial works are prioritised, thus keeping schools open to all stakeholders.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable