

## Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA371436972

Submitted: 15 October 2021 17:20 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** Extension and procurement of local bus contracts up until July 2024

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** To extend or procure 141 local bus contracts for up to a period to July 2024. Contract terms allow for an extension of some contracts, some contracts will need to be tendered in July 2023 for a period up to July 2024

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Enable inclusive economic growth, Help people get the best start and age well, Help create great places to grow up, live and work, Transform the council to achieve more with less

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Enable inclusive economic growth:** Help people in Essex prosper by increasing their skills, Enable Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries, Target economic development to areas of opportunity

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well:** Help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential, Enable more vulnerable adults to live independent of social care, Improve the health of people in Essex

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help create great places to grow up, live and work:** Help to secure stronger, safer and more neighbourly communities, Help secure sustainable development and protect the environment, Facilitate growing communities and new homes

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Transform the council to achieve more with less:** Limit cost and drive growth in revenue, Develop the capability, performance and engagement of our people, Re-imagine how residents' needs can be met in a digital world

**Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?:** a change to an existing policy, practice or project

**Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates:** To follow

**Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:** To follow

### Assessing the equality impact

**Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision):** Following the recent Coronavirus Pandemic which has had an impact on bus passenger usage, and the introduction of a new national strategy - Bus Back Better, we are requesting that we extend and/or procure 141 local bus contracts up to July 2024, this will allow time for ECC to review of its local bus contracts and enable ECC to fulfil its response to the National Strategy.

**Does or will the policy or decision affect:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** No

**The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities:** Yes

**Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?:** All Essex

**Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?:** No

**Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?:** No

**Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?:** Yes

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## Description of impact

**Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page:** Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment, Gender / sex

**I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics:** I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

**Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics:** If the contracts are extended and tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tendered and allow the Council to carry out full review of its bus network and meet the objectives of the National Bus Back Better Strategy.

## Age

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy.

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## Disability - learning disability

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy.

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## Disability - mental health issues

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## **Gender / sex**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended/tendered, then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and will be able to meet the objectives in the National Bus Back Better Strategy

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending or tendering these services, we will not be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension/tender and we will not be able to meet the objectives in the Bus Back Better Strategy.

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?:** No

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date EqIA completed:** 15/10/2021

**Name of person completing the EqIA:** Wendy Jackson

**Email address of person completing the EqIA:** Wendy.Jackson@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Place and Public Health

**Your service area:** Integrated passenger transport unit (IPTU)

**Your team:** Local Bus

**Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** Helen.Morris@essex.gov.uk