

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA263314171

Submitted: 21 October 2020 10:26 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Essex County Council – Data Agency Service 2021 - CMA

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): Offer a Data Agency service to Operators for the purposes of Bus Open Data in 2021

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: Enable Essex to attract and grow large firms in high growth industries

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well: Enable more vulnerable adults to live independent of social care

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 new policy (or decision)

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqlA relates: <https://publish.bus-data.dft.gov.uk/>

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqlA, for example decision documents:
<https://publish.bus-data.dft.gov.uk/>

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): Currently data is made available to customers via the National Traveline Dataset (TNDS), which Essex County Council currently feeds into on a weekly basis. Local Transport Authorities have a vital role to play in supporting bus operators to meet their new statutory Open Data obligations set out in the Bus Services Act (2017) during 2021. Essex County Council proposes to act as an agent creating and hosting data on behalf of bus operators, who may lack the digital skills, capabilities and resources in their organisations and so would be at greatest risk of not complying. Our aim is to have no gaps in data, which would impact TNDS.

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: No

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

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: Yes

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?: No

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: Yes

Please describe the steps you have taken to meet the digital accessibility requirements: Our intention is to use Essex's Open Data platform to host files (<https://data.essex.gov.uk/>). We have already met with the team and have tested this functionality. The DfT's site (where the data goes to) has gone through rigorous testing stages. The customer site (traveline.info), has been operational for a number of years.

Please describe the steps you have taken to test the accessibility of the website, system or application: Essex is a representative to the South Eastern Traveline Region and has feedback, with other LAs, on user journey/functionality of the National Traveline Portal.

Please describe the steps you have taken to maintain accessibility once it has gone live: N/A - as the customer facing side is already live (traveline.info). The customer should not notice a change in what's presented in search enquiries (Timetable Search or Journey Planning), it's just the source of this data 'may' be changing.

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: No impact on any of the above groups

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

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: 21/10/2020

Name of person completing the EqIA: Tony Brown

Email address of person completing the EqIA: Tony.Brown@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: IPTU

Your team: Travel Information

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