

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA412183961

Submitted: 31 March 2022 12:39 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Colchester Rapid Transit System (Section A) - Decision to Publish Tender for Main Works Contract

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): That the Council launch a competitive procurement for delivery of the infrastructure for Section A of the Rapid Transit System. A Rapid Transit System (RTS) is a type of high-capacity public transport, the North Essex RTS scheme will initially be delivered using Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) technology that is capable of evolving and being upgraded to a trackless tram in the future.

Together with the proposed A120-A133 Link Road, the Rapid Transit System (RTS) will play a key role in unlocking land to provide up to 9,000 new homes, as well as business and leisure space, as part of the new Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community. The proposed Link Road will provide improved access to both the A120 and A12, reducing congestion on the network and throughout Colchester town centre, as well as providing a connection to the new RTS which will offer residents a high frequency public transport service on segregated or priority corridors.

Delivery of a Rapid Transit System will encourage residents in the new settlement and across Colchester to use public transport, reducing the number of vehicles on the network and further avoiding carbon emissions. There is a requirement to alleviate congestion by providing sustainable and high capacity alternatives to car travel, an RTS is integral in supporting that objective.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: High Quality Environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well: Transport and built environment, Green communities

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 EqIA relates:

\\chesfs08\Highways\TransPlan\Colchester Haven Gateway\schemes\ZZ.10002973- A120133 RTS

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

\\chesfs08\Highways\TransPlan\Colchester Haven Gateway\schemes\ZZ.10002973- A120133 RTS

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): The provision of a Rapid Transit system in Colchester is critical to reaching our aims by providing alternative, sustainable transport options which mean that the options for residents is vastly improved, including being a better choice for them than cars. Part of this is also to create benefits across Colchester in terms of moving around town, so that the community has opportunities for growth in a sustainable way.

Communities will be positively affected by the additional transport options, as well as a segregated cycleway and footway provision.

Existing carriageway capacity is being maintained in addition to providing a segregated busway and so car users

who have no alternative will not be detrimentally impacted by the proposals.

During the discharge of conditions for the Planning Application, Colchester Borough Council held a public consultation in August 2021. The designs were amended to reflect comments and concerns from local residents. The scheme design is also following the Road Safety Audit review process and this has also informed the design development.

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?: Colchester

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: 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: 31/03/2022

Name of person completing the EqIA: Laura Ford

Email address of person completing the EqIA: Laura.Ford@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: Infrastructure Delivery

Your team: Highways

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

Email address of Head of Service: Ben.Finlayson@essex.gov.uk