

Equality Impact Assessment

Context

1. under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010, when making decisions, Essex County Council must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, ie have due regard to:
 - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage/civil partnership
 - pregnancy/maternity
 - race
 - religion/belief
 - gender and sexual orientation.
3. In addition to the above protected characteristics you should consider the cross-cutting elements of the proposed policy, namely the social, economic and environmental impact (including rurality) as part of this assessment. These cross-cutting elements are not a characteristic protected by law but are regarded as good practice to include.
4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document should be used as a tool to test and analyse the nature and impact of either what we do or are planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.
5. Use the questions in this document to record your findings. This should include the nature and extent of the impact on those likely to be affected by the proposed policy.
6. Where this EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.
7. The EqIA will be published at:
<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Home.aspx>
8. All **Cabinet Member Actions, Chief Officer Actions, Key Decisions** and **Cabinet Reports must be** accompanied by an EqIA.
9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.
10. For advice, contact:
Shammi Jalota shammi.jalota@essex.gov.uk
Head of Equality and Diversity
Corporate Law & Assurance
Tel 0330 134592 or 07740 901114



Section 1: Identifying details

Your function, service area and team: Highways & Transportation

If you are submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team, specify the originating function, service area or team:

Title of policy or decision: A120 Braintree to A12: report on option selection and consultation.

Officer completing the EqlA: Gary MacDonnell Tel: 07415 791950 Email: gary.macdonnell@essex.gov.uk

Date of completing the assessment: 13/10/2017

Section 2: Policy to be analysed

2.1	Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project? Decision to assess the choices open to Essex County Council following public consultation and further technical studies for the A120 between Braintree and the A12.
2.2	<p>Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Route options B, C, D and E remain strong candidates for entry into the next Highways England Roads Investment Strategy 2 programme and that work should continue on developing these options.• Option A should be eliminated from further consideration.• It will be announced that an additional junction for access to Bradwell Quarry and the Integrated Waste Management Facility will be included in the design of the remaining options.• The remaining four route options will be assessed in further detail according to Highways England process, and a decision on a preferred route will be made by Highways England on completion of stage 2. <p>What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (ie decommissioning or commissioning a service)?</p> <p>To select the favoured routes for the A120 between Braintree and the A12.</p>
2.3	<p>Does or will the policy or decision affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• service users• employees• the wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities? <p>Service Users / Wider Community</p> <p>Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?</p> <p>No</p>
2.4	<p>Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?</p> <p>No</p>



2.5	<p>Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies and how, if applicable, does the proposed policy support corporate outcomes?</p> <p>It supports the councils aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce congestion on the network To support economic growth and development To make best use of existing public transport services To promote, encourage and support sustainable journeys along the corridors To improve safety To improve air quality in the area and reduce carbon emissions.
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Section 3: Evidence/data about the user population and consultation¹

As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, eg service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).

3.1	<p>What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</p> <p>The changes would have a universal impact and would not disproportionately impact any equalities group.</p>
3.2	<p>Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision you want to implement? If so, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?</p> <p>A non-statutory public consultation took place between 17th January and 14th March 2017. 2795 responses were received which have been analysed and can be found in the A120 Consultation Report.</p> <p>A questionnaire was used to gather the views and opinions of key stakeholders about the long term improvements of the A120 from Braintree to the A12. The questionnaire used a combination of open and closed questions. Respondents were given the option to complete the questionnaire online or on paper to ensure that the consultation was accessible to the full target population.</p> <p>The consultation result and technical studies combined have assisted us to make the decision to eliminate Route A from further consideration.</p>
3.3	<p>If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary:</p> <p>We have consulted with the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal (Department for Transport and Highways England) • Local authorities • Emergency services • Strategic traffic generators • Business community • Local residents • Freight and passenger transport • Statutory environmental bodies • Statutory bodies and utilities • Road users • Equalities and vulnerable user groups.

¹ Data sources within EEC. Refer to Essex Insight:
<http://www.essexinsight.org.uk/mainmenu.aspx?cookieCheck=true>
 with links to JSNA and 2011 Census.



Section 4: Impact of policy or decision

Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.

Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Age	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Disability	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Gender	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Gender reassignment	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Race	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Religion/belief	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Sexual orientation	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Cross-cutting themes		
Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Socio-economic	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L
Environmental, eg housing, transport links/rural isolation	Neutral (unknown at this stage)	L



Section 5: Conclusion

		Tick Yes/No as appropriate	
5.1	Does the EqlA in Section 4 indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If ' YES ', use the action plan at Section 6 to describe the adverse impacts and what mitigating actions you could put in place.



Section 6: Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

What are the potential adverse impacts?	What are the mitigating actions?	Date they will be achieved.



Section 7: Sign off

**I confirm that this initial analysis has been completed appropriately.
(A typed signature is sufficient.)**

Signature of Head of Service: Chris Stevenson

Date: 07/11/17

Signature of person completing the EqlA: Gary Macdonnell

Date: 13/10/17

Advice

Keep your director informed of all equality & diversity issues. We recommend that you forward a copy of every EqlA you undertake to the director responsible for the service area. Retain a copy of this EqlA for your records. If this EqlA relates to a continuing project, ensure this document is kept under review and updated, eg after a consultation has been undertaken.

