

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v2 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA535049227

Submitted: 15 September 2023 13:26 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** New Passenger Transport Services Dynamic Purchasing Framework Agreement

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Decision

**Overview of policy / decision:** Essex County Council make home to school and adult social care transport available to eligible children and adults. Essex County Council also provide local bus services.

One way of procuring the necessary services is by the operation of a DPS which enables us to obtain bids quickly from local transport operators. The purpose is to replace an existing DPS which is set to expire on 1 January 2024.

The DPS will run annual tender rounds, these will be subject to their own decision-making process, whereby a decision is made about which transport should be bought, procured and awarded.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** The DPS will allow ECC to meet its statutory obligations to enable children and vulnerable adults to access education and appropriate services. The DPS will also allow ECC to continue the provision of local bus arrangements. This will help to achieve our priorities in Everyone's Essex by supporting access to education and promoting independence. It will also continue to contribute to a reduction of congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions that result from a high number of car journeys. The DPS will also encourage the provision of social value through transport contracts.

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Nicole Wood (Corporate Services')

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Christopher Whitbread (Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** New policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** This decision is to enable the platform to compliantly procure the statutory home to school, adult social care and local bus services.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** No

**Wider community or groups of people:** No

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment, Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?:** Levelling up the economy

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment:** Transport and built environment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health:** Promoting independence

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families:** Education outcomes, Outcomes for vulnerable children

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex

## **Digital accessibility**

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

## **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

### **Age**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Race**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This service supports children and vulnerable adults across Essex to ensure statutory transport services are in place. This includes around 13,192 education passengers and around 600 ASC passengers.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:** Positive impacts for impacted groups will be strengthened by the following at tender/post-award stage:

The introduction of quality into tenders will ensure that services are provided by quality suppliers.

The introduction of social value will ensure that ECC maximise the benefits of all contracts and ensure that social value is provided to the community.

Implementation of smart KPI's to ensure the benefits are realised.

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

### **Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Residents of Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Statutory transport and local bus services are provided countywide. Transport is provided to around 13,192 students (SEND & Mainstream) and 600 ASC passengers across Essex to around 427 schools/colleges/centres, therefore the impact has been considered positive across the county.

In line with ECC's education transport policy, children with SEND may be eligible for free home to school transport. Currently 3120 SEND passengers receive free home to school transport. Therefore the impact of this decision is positive and high for this group.

In line with ECC's education transport policy, statutory entitlement is extended to those from low income groups and therefore there is a beneficial impact on this group.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:** Positive impacts for impacted groups will be strengthened by the following at tender/post-award stage:

the introduction of quality into tenders will ensure that services are provided by quality suppliers.

The introduction of social value will ensure that ECC maximise the benefits of all contracts and ensure that social value is provided to the community.

Implementation of smart KPI's to ensure the benefits are realised.

## **Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

## **Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People who experience drug and alcohol dependence**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Victims of modern slavery**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Carers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

## **Looked after children / care leavers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

## **The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Sex workers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Ethnic minorities**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Statutory transport services including local bus impact on all users in Essex. In the month of January 2023, 250,000 passengers were transported on ECC contracted services. The impact can therefore be considered positive for a range of individuals.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:** Positive impacts for impacted groups will be strengthened by the following at tender/post-award stage:

the introduction of quality into tenders will ensure that services are provided by quality suppliers.

The introduction of social value will ensure that ECC maximise the benefits of all contracts and ensure that social value is provided to the community.

Implementation of smart KPI's to ensure the benefits are realised.

## **Equalities - Geographical Groups**

### **People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **People living in urban or over-populated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Statutory transport service impact everyone in Essex. For example, in the month of January 2023 250,000 passengers were transported on ECC contracted services.

In line with ECC's education policy, those from low income backgrounds may be eligible for free home to school transport, highlighting that the impact to those living in highly deprived areas may be medium.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

**How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:** Positive impacts for impacted groups will be strengthened by the following at tender/post-award stage:

the introduction of quality into tenders will ensure that services are provided by quality suppliers.

The introduction of social value will ensure that ECC maximise the benefits of all contracts and ensure that social value is provided to the community.

Implementation of smart KPI's to ensure the benefits are realised.

## **Families**

### **Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Statutory transport service impact everyone in Essex

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** Positive impacts for impacted groups will be strengthened by the following at tender/post-award stage:

the introduction of quality into tenders will ensure that services are provided by quality suppliers.

The introduction of social value will ensure that ECC maximise the benefits of all contracts and ensure that social value is provided to the community.

Implementation of smart KPI's to ensure the benefits are realised.

# Climate

**Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit):** Yes

**Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?:** Service users will come from across Essex and will access schools, community settings & places of work through the use of home to school, adult social care and local bus transport.

**If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?:** No

**What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?:** No, however this is in scope for the future of home to school, adult social care and local bus transport. ULEZ minimum standards are in place for home to school and adult social care transport.

**Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?:** No

**Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new:** No

## Nature of impact

**Built Environment / Energy:** None

**Sustainable Transport / Travel:** Positive

**Waste:** None

## Extent of impact

**Sustainable Transport / Travel:** Low

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** ULEZ requirements mandated on home to school and adult social care transport.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** N/A

## Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** 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 ECIA completed:** 28/07/2023

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Megan Hunt



**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** Megan.Hunt@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Climate, Environment and Customer Services

**Your service area:** Procurement

**Your team:** Passenger Transport

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

**Email address of Head of Service:** Laura.Lee@essex.gov.uk