

## Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA227385488

Submitted: 13 July 2020 09:41 AM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** Extension of local bus services until July 2022

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** Extension of 80 local bus contracted services due to expire in July 2021. The contract terms allow for such an extension. We seek authority to extend the contracts, if the contracts agrees to this, and to tender and award contracts where the contractor declines to extend.

**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

### 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):** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are requesting that our contracts that are due to expire in July 2021 to be extended for a further year. If the contracts are not extended this will result in a loss of service for residents countywide

**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 not extended, there will be a loss of service across the county, which will include rural and urban routes

## Age

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension.

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## Disability - learning disability

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## Disability - mental health issues

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not

have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## Disability - physical impairment

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## Disability - sensory impairment

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## Gender / sex

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Please provide more details about the nature of impact:** If the contracts are extended then we will be able to continue to provide a service on the routes proposed for extension

**Extent of impact:** High

**Please provide more details about the extent of impact:** Without extending these services, residents may not have links to school, work, health appointments etc

## 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:** 13/07/2020

**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

**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