

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA460978831

Submitted: 22 November 2022 15:48 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Education Travel Contract Extensions and Awards 2023

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: To agree the extension of existing contracts and the procurement of new education transport contracts. The extension or renewal of these contracts will ensure that we continue to meet our statutory obligations to enable children and students to access education.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: This is a decision taken annually to ensure ECC continue to meet our statutory obligations to put transport in place for those children eligible to receive it so they can access education.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

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 monitored through our usual contract management process for this service area

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?: Infrastructure, Levelling up the economy

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Transport and built environment, Levelling up the environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health: Healthy lifestyles, Promoting independence, Levelling up health

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

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: None

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: None

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: None

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: None

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: None

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: Transport Providers for students

across Essex could change as a result of this decision. It will not affect the statutory duties ECC hold to continue to provide the service.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: Detailed analysis has been undertaken by Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (IPTU) Transport Officers of all the expiring contracts to determine a way forward. ECC will work with schools and providers to minimise the impact of any change of transport provider and our terms and conditions require action from the provider to manage the change which minimises any negative impact.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

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

Nature of impact: None

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

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

Nature of impact: None

Harlow

Nature of impact: None

Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: None

Harwich

Nature of impact: None

Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: None

Canvey Island

Nature of impact: None

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: None

Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: These services are already in place for those children eligible and there is no specific impact on levelling up as a result of this decision.

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Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children

Nature of impact: None

Veterans

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: These services are already in place for those children eligible and there is no specific impact on any group of people as a result of this decision.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: Detailed analysis has been undertaken by Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (IPTU) Transport Officers of all the expiring contracts to determine a way forward. ECC will work with schools and providers to minimise the impact of any change and our terms and conditions require action from the provider to manage any negative impact where necessary

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: None

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: These services are already in place for those children eligible and there is no specific impact on any group of people as a result of this decision.

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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: These services are already in place for those children eligible and there is no specific impact on any group of people as a result of this decision.

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Climate

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?: No

Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?: Yes

Where are staff coming from and how they are travelling? Using local staff to reduce travel needs, use sustainable modes of travel to get to sites. Where car journey are essential, can staff be incentivised to car share?: n/a

Are you specifying electric cars?: No

Are you specifying transition to low emission vehicles for heavier vehicles as these become available?:
No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?: No

Nature of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: Positive

Extent of impact

Sustainable Transport / Travel: High

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: This decision is to agree the extension of existing contracts and the procurement of new education transport contracts. The extension or renewal of these contracts will ensure that we continue to meet our statutory obligations to enable children and students to access education. This will help to achieve our priorities in Everyone's Essex by supporting access to education. The actions below will also reduce congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions that result from a high number of car journeys to and from schools and grow the passenger transport network to give people an alternative to car travel. This helps to reduce congestion and carbon emissions, and so contributing to our net zero carbon goals. It enables people to live independently and to access friends and family, supporting their health and wellbeing.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

1. a ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone) standard vehicle requirement of 70% of a Private Hire Vehicle Operator's fleet (not including wheelchair accessible vehicles) will be added to the specification for this tender round to reduce air pollution related to ECC contract activity.
2. enable ECC contracts to continue to specify bus provision at mainstream schools where these are currently specified (rather than multiple smaller vehicles) to reduce volume and congestion
3. continuing to encourage registration of these services with the Traffic Commissioner will enable the wider community to access services
4. for mainstream services, ECC will accept a daily rate or ticket agreement price which will continue to enable the existing bus network to be used
5. creating 6 new cluster contracts for out of County schools. In 2023/24 this will reduce the number of SEND contracts from 22 to 6 and this approach reduces congestion and enables Operators to maximise vehicle usage.

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: 22/11/2022

Name of person completing the ECIA: Karen Saunders

Email address of person completing the ECIA: karen.saunders@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Your service area: Highways & Transportation

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: helen.morris@essex.gov.uk