

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA361586360

Submitted: 07 September 2021 16:02 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan for Essex

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): Bus Service Improvement Plans are required to cover:

- the current position of the bus network, including patronage, congestion and traffic levels, service levels, the main barriers to usage and the key opportunities for improvement;
- post Covid challenges: and how the network might adapt;
- proposals for improvement: describing how local transport authorities and bus operators will deliver the key goals set by the strategy.

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

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

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a new policy (or decision)

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): We have engaged with bus operators, bus user groups, businesses and Community Transport schemes in the development of the BSIP. The core measures will additionally be subject to full consultation either in their own right or as part of the Enhanced Partnership process.

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?: Yes

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: Yes

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)?: Yes

Please describe the steps you have taken to meet the digital accessibility requirements: The development of proposals for improved information is being taken forward in partnership with colleagues from Information Technology.

Please describe the steps you have taken to test the accessibility of the website, system or application: Development of the platform will reflect all the advice from colleagues on testing

Please describe the steps you have taken to maintain accessibility once it has gone live: The platform will continue to be subject to ECC standards and review processes

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: Measures to improve the bus network are intended to have positive impacts

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by older people. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by people with a disability. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by people with a disability. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by people with a disability. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by people with a disability. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

Gender / sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Buses are disproportionately used by women. Therefore measures to improve the network will have a positive impact.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Measures in the short term will have a low impact but these will increase as further improvements are made.

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 EqlA completed: 07/09/2021

Name of person completing the EqlA: Helen Morris

Email address of person completing the EqlA: Helen.Morris@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: Highways and Transport

Your team: IPTU

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

Email address of Head of Service: helen.morris@essex.gov.uk