

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA331786550

Submitted: 07 May 2021 14:32 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Essex County Council response to Bus Back Better

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): 1.1 Bus Back Better, the Government's national bus strategy, was published on 15 March 2021. Amongst other requirements, it asks local transport authorities to issue a public statement of intent as to how they will proceed in respect of the statutory routes open to them under The Bus Act 2017. The two statutory routes are Enhanced Partnerships and Franchising.

1.2 This report sets out ECC's intention in response to that requirement and is the formal notification of that intention.

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: 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): Bus services are disproportionately used by those who are older, younger, women, those with a disability and those on lower incomes. The measures set out in the new Government Bus Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bus-back-better> which this decision partly fulfils are intended to improve bus services. This will therefore benefit users.

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?: 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: There are no negative impacts

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit those in older and younger age groups

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit those with a disability

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit those with a disability

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit those with a disability

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit those with a disability

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

Gender / sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Improvements to bus services will disproportionately benefit women

Extent of impact: Low

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: The immediate decision will have only a minimal impact but longer term benefits could be significant

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: 07/05/2021

Name of person completing the EqIA: Helen Morris

Email address of person completing the EqIA: 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