

Equality Impact Assessment

Context

1. under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010, when making decisions, Essex County Council must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, i.e. have due regard to:
 - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage/civil partnership
 - pregnancy/maternity
 - race
 - religion/belief
 - gender
 - sexual orientation.
3. In addition to the above protected characteristics you should consider the cross-cutting elements of the proposed policy, namely the social, economic and environmental impact (including rurality) as part of this assessment. These cross-cutting elements are not a characteristic protected by law but are regarded as good practice to include.
4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document should be used as a tool to test and analyse the nature and impact of either what we do or are planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.
5. Use the questions in this document to record your findings. This should include the nature and extent of the impact on those likely to be affected by the proposed policy.
6. Where this EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.
7. The EqIA will be published [online](#):
8. All **Cabinet Member Actions, Chief Officer Actions, Key Decisions** and **Cabinet Reports must be** accompanied by an EqIA.
9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.
10. For advice, contact:
Shammi Jalota shammi.jalota@essex.gov.uk
Head of Equality and Diversity
Corporate Law & Assurance
Tel 0330 134592 or 07740 901114



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Section 1: Identifying details

Your function, service area and team: Essex Highways

If you are submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team, specify the originating function, service area or team: Asset Management

Title of policy or decision: New ECC Highways Maintenance and Inspection Strategies

Officer completing the EqlA: Deana James, Business Planning Manager, Essex Highways
Commissioning deana.james2@essex.gov.uk

Date of completing the assessment: 18 September 2019

Section 2: Policy to be analysed

2.1 Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project? These are newly drafted documents; the ITS document is a new strategy. Winter and Street lighting documents have been reviewed and updated

2.2 Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):

To agree the implementation of new ECC Highways Maintenance strategies for the following services:

- **ECC Maintenance and Inspections Strategy: Street Lighting** This document contains inspection and defect repair times along with items for inspections.
- **ECC Maintenance and Inspections Strategy: Winter Maintenance**
- **ECC Winter Maintenance Strategy:** Updated to reflect latest arrangements for treating the highway network in winter. Whilst no changes to the treatment criteria have been made, a review of the winter routes will be undertaken over the coming year to reflect recent changes in the roads hierarchy. Changes to the winter routes will be implemented during the 2020/21 winter season.
- **ECC Maintenance and Inspections Strategy: ITS** This is a new document and outlines the approach to maintenance and inspections, including defect repair times for the ITS asset group.
- Updated to reflect latest arrangements for treating the highway network in winter. Whilst no changes to the treatment criteria have been made, a review of the winter routes will be undertaken over the coming year to reflect recent changes in the roads hierarchy. Changes to the winter routes will be implemented during the 2020/21 winter season
- **ECC Maintenance and Inspections Strategy: ITS** This is a new document and outlines the approach to maintenance and inspections, including defect repair times for the ITS asset group.

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	<p>These will be introduced from November 2019.</p> <p>What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve (i.e. decommissioning or commissioning a service)?</p> <p>The new strategies will align ECC's approach with its highway maintenance activities and provide more succinct documentation to support this approach. They reflect a continuation of existing practices and align with the expectations of a New Code of Practice; Well Managed Highways Infrastructure.</p>
2.3	<p>Does or will the policy or decision affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service users • employees • the wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities? <p>Although this decision will impact users of the highway network within Essex, the new policy is formulated around keeping the network safe rather than affecting levels of service. The documents do not reflect a change in levels of service but seek formalisation of approach.</p> <p>Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate? No</p>
2.4	<p>Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources? No</p>
2.5	<p>Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies and how, if applicable, does the proposed policy support corporate outcomes?</p> <p>Delivery of these works and services will contribute towards the following objectives;</p>



- Meet customer needs.
- Obtain value for money.
- Promote improvement and innovation.
- Help ECC realise its strategic aims 2017-2021.
- Reduce the cost of the Service.

We aim to achieve these by maximising the commercial and strategic opportunities with Ringway Jacobs to ensure we are delivering quality services and maximising value for money. This ambition will in turn contribute towards achieving the following strategic aims:

- **Help create great places to grow up, live and work**
Secure sustainable development and protect the environment
 - Reduce the environmental impact and cost to the taxpayer of dealing with waste, by working effectively with partners to minimise waste.
 - Improve the image of the county, by promoting the benefits of Essex Highways and the County Council.
 - Reduce carbon emissions and energy costs for Essex Highways by supporting the development of new strategies that promote clean growth and the use of affordable energy.
- **Transform the council to achieve more with less**
Limit cost and drive growth in revenue
 - Optimise revenue from services, by charging appropriately and realising commercial benefit
 - Drive out inefficiency, by reducing costs, increasing productivity and adopting lean methodology.
 - Work collaboratively with partners to deliver maximum value for taxpayers' money that is spent through Essex Highways.

Section 3: Evidence/data about the user population and consultation¹

¹ Data sources within EEC. Refer to Essex Insight:
<http://www.essexinsight.org.uk/mainmenu.aspx?cookieCheck=true>
with links to JSNA and 2011 Census.



As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, e.g. service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).

3.1	<p>What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</p> <p>As part of the requirement in the new Code of Practice, we have undertaken best practice sharing and consultation with our peers both locally and nationally. We undertake annual customer satisfaction surveys and it is hoped that by implementing these changes we can better manage public expectation.</p>
3.2	<p>Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision you want to implement? If so, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?</p> <p>See above.</p>
3.3	<p>If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary. Please include any reasonable adjustments, e.g. accessible formats, you will provide as part of the consultation process for disabled people:</p> <p>N/A as county wide, not targeted.</p>



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Section 4: Impact of policy or decision

Use this section to assess any potential impact on equality groups based on what you now know.

Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Age	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Disability – learning disability	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Disability – mental health	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Disability – physical disability	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Disability – sensory impairment (visual, hearing and deafblind)	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Gender	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Gender reassignment	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Marriage/civil partnership	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Race	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Religion/belief	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Sexual orientation	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific groups	L
Cross-cutting themes		
Description of impact	Nature of impact Positive, neutral, adverse (explain why)	Extent of impact



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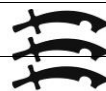
		Low, medium, high (use L, M or H)
Socio-economic	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific areas or groups	L
Environmental, e.g. housing, transport links/rural isolation	Neutral – county wide decision not targeted at specific areas	L

Section 5: Conclusion

		Tick Yes/No as appropriate	
5.1	Does the EqIA in Section 4 indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If 'YES', use the action plan at Section 6 to describe the adverse impacts and what mitigating actions you could put in place.

Section 6: Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

What are the potential adverse impacts?	What are the mitigating actions?	Date they will be achieved.
N/A		



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Section 7: Sign off

**I confirm that this initial analysis has been completed appropriately.
(A typed signature is sufficient.)**

Signature of Head of Service: <i>FMasne</i>	Date: 02 September 2019
Signature of person completing the EqlA: Deana James	Date: 18 September 2019

Advice

Keep your director informed of all equality & diversity issues. We recommend that you forward a copy of every EqlA you undertake to the director responsible for the service area. Retain a copy of this EqlA for your records. If this EqlA relates to a continuing project, ensure this document is kept under review and updated, eg after a consultation has been undertaken.



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