

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA121870286

Submitted: 31 May 2019 11:09 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: FP/41/04/19

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): To ask cabinet to agree new policies for supported evening and Sunday services;
to agree to the procurement of contracts providing supported evening and Sunday services,
all of which are due to expire in March 2020

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

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates:

(<https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/local%20bus%20service%20priority%20policy%202015%20to%202020>)

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:

(<https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/local%20bus%20service%20priority%20policy%202015%20to%202020>)

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): Essex wide local bus consultation carried out between December 2018 and March 2019 to review current evening and Sunday supported local bus services. Taking into consideration passenger data received from local bus operators and considering new policies

Of those who responded, 48% of respondents were Male, 44% were female and 8% preferred not to say (Sample=1198). 29% of respondents were aged 65 or over while 19% were aged between 55 and 64.14% of

respondents said that they have a physical impairment, 9% have a long term health condition that affects their transport needs (eg epilepsy), 6% have an hearing impairment, 6% have a have a mental health need and 3% have a visual impairment. (Sample=1165),

45% of respondents work while 44% are retired, 6% preferred not to say, 3% Not working or studying with 2% studying full or part time

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

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank.:

Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment, Gender / sex, Pregnancy / maternity, Religion / belief

Age

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Elderly people are disproportionate users of bus services

29% of respondents were aged 65 or over while 19% were aged between 55 and 64

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time.

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: People with learning disabilities are disproportionate users of bus services

14% of respondents said that they have a physical impairment, 9% have a long term health condition that affects their transport needs (eg epilepsy), 6% have an hearing impairment, 6% have a have a mental health need and 3% have a visual impairment. (Sample=1165),

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: People with mental health issues are disproportionate users of bus services

14% of respondents said that they have a physical impairment, 9% have a long term health condition that affects their transport needs (eg epilepsy), 6% have an hearing impairment, 6% have a have a mental health need and 3% have a visual impairment. (Sample=1165),

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: People with a physical impairment are disproportionate users of bus services

14% of respondents said that they have a physical impairment, 9% have a long term health condition that affects their transport needs (eg epilepsy), 6% have an hearing impairment, 6% have a have a mental health need and 3% have a visual impairment. (Sample=1165),

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: People with a sensory impairment are disproportionate users of bus services

14% of respondents said that they have a physical impairment, 9% have a long term health condition that affects their transport needs (eg epilepsy), 6% have an hearing impairment, 6% have a have a mental health need and 3% have a visual impairment. (Sample=1165),

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Gender / sex

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Statistics show women are more likely to travel by bus.

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Statistics show women are more likely to travel by bus.

<https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Transport-October-2018-w-cover.pdf>

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: In some cases service users will need to find alternative arrangements which may have an impact on cost and time

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: Adverse

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: The reduction to the Sunday frequency may affect some bus services users

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: Some people may consider that they are unable to worship if travelling on a Sunday is more difficult

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqlA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: Yes

What are the mitigating actions?: With regard to the action plan section. Within the consultation, which involved several sections, we are proposing to remove journeys after 22.00 Monday to Fridays, and after 23.00pm on Saturdays, this would be mitigated if there were more than 6 passengers travelling, then it is likely that the journey would remain

On Sundays we are proposing to reduce the day from 8.00am to 19.00 and offer a 2 hourly frequency, again, if more than 6 people were travelling then the journeys likely to remain

Date they will be achieved: 29/03/2020

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: 31/05/2019

Name of person completing the EqlA: Wendy Jackson

Email address of person completing the EqlA: Wendy.Jackson@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Infrastructure & Environment

Your service area: Passenger 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