

**Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form: Initial impact assessment**

If an officer is undertaking a project, policy change or service change, then an initial impact assessment must be completed and attached alongside the Project initiation document.

**EqIA Titular information:**

Date:	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Service:	Highways and Transport
Project, policy or service EQIA relates to:	Commitment to an Enhanced Partnership and Local bus Service Improvement Plan
Completed by:	Rebecca Brooks
Has the EQIA been discussed at services team meeting:	Not yet.
Signed off by:	
Sign off date:	

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**1. Policy, Project or service information:**

This section should be used to identify the main purpose of the project, policy or service change, the method of delivery, including who key stakeholders are, main beneficiaries and any associated aims.

<b>What is the purpose of the project, policy change or service change , its expected outcomes and how does it relate to your services corporate plan:</b>
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To make a decision on a commitment to forming an Enhanced Partnership Agreement with local bus operators and producing a Bus Service Improvement Plan. The decision is one which is required by the National Bus Strategy which was released by Department for Transport 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.</li></ul> Expected outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To commit to an Enhanced Partnership agreement and a bus service improvement plan</li></ul>

- To allow the council to continue to receive Covid recovery funding to support bus services beyond 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- To allow Highways and Transport to work with stakeholders to develop a plan for improved bus services.

Services corporate plan:

- This aligns with the Corporate Plan to Keep the Borough moving by tackling congestion and enabling safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. This also supports our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good links between services and different modes of transport.

**Outline how you are delivering your project, policy change or service change. What governance arrangements are in place, which internal stakeholders (Service managers, Assistant Directors, Members ect) have/will be consulted and informed about the project or changes:**

How is the project delivered:

- By drafting a Bus Service Improvement Plan
- By forming an Enhanced Partnership

Governance:

- Monthly stakeholder meetings and Executive member updates
- Final plan and partnership agreement to be agreed by Executive

Stakeholders:

- CTU – Rebecca Brooks
- Council Service Areas – Adult Services, Childrens Services, Strategy and Commissioning, Highways Development Management
- Local Bus Operator

**Outline who are the main beneficiaries of the Project, policy change or service change?**

- Local Bus Operators – through an agreement to work in partnership and provide better highway conditions for bus travel
- Residents, Employees and Visitors to the Borough – if the decision is taken to go ahead with an EP and BSIP, better, more convenient and easier to understand bus services, which are safer and more accessible.

<p><b>Outline any associated aims attached to the project, policy change or service change:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the potential to set the foundations for policies and ultimately service delivery which reduces congestion, carbon emissions and air pollutants</li> <li>• Has the potential to set the foundations for policies and ultimately service delivery which improves accessibility and the usability of public transport across the borough.</li> </ul>
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## 2. Protected characteristics:

There are 9 protected characteristics as defined by the legislation:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Gender re-assignment
- Age
- Religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership:

*To find out more about the protected groups, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

## 3. Initial Impact review:

In the table below, please indicate whether your project, Policy change or service change will have a positive or negative impact on one of the protected characteristics. To assess the level of impact, please assign each group a Positive, No, Low or High impact score:

*For information on how to define No, low or high impact, please consult the EQIA guidance document.*

If your project is to have a positive impact on one of the protected groups, please outline this in the table below.

*For details on what constitutes a positive impact, please consult the EQIA guidance.*

Protected characteristics	Impact score	Please detail what impact will be felt by the protected group:
Race:	No impact	
Gender:	No impact	
Disabilities:	Positive High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Accessibility Improvement to bus stops and bus services should have a positive impact.</li> </ul>
Age:	Positive High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better bus services would disproportionately benefit young people who are too young to drive</li> <li>• Better bus services would disproportionately benefit those of pensionable age who have concessionary bus passes</li> </ul>
Sexual orientation:	No impact	
Religion/belief:	No impact	
Gender re-assignment:	No impact	
Pregnancy and Maternity:	No impact	
Marriage and civil partnership:	No impact	

Based on your findings from your initial impact assessment, you must complete a full impact assessment for any groups you have identified as having a low or high negative impact. If No impact, or a positive impact has been identified, you do not need to complete a full assessment. However, you must report on this initial assessment and it must receive formal approval from the Assistant Director responsible for the project, policy or service change.

Initial impact assessment approved by....

Date:....

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