

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Stage One

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	Reduce the annual community transport operator revenue grant by £10,000.
Summary of relevant legislation:	Local authorities do not have a statutory duty with regard to providing, or funding, community transport. Nevertheless, they do have a duty under section 63(1)(a) of the Transport Act 1985 to: <i>“secure the provision of such public passenger transport services as the council consider it appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would not in their view be met apart from any action taken by them for that purpose”</i> .
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council’s priorities for improvement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services we are proud of Fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all Tackling the climate and ecological emergency A prosperous and resilient West Berkshire Thriving communities with a strong local voice 	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced access to facilities as a result of the removal or reduction of community transport services, which may increase social isolation.
Name of Budget Holder:	Emma Jameson
Name of Service/Directorate:	Environment/Place
Name of assessor:	Emma Jameson
Date of assessment:	15/11/2023
Version and release date (if applicable):	1.0

Is this a ?		Is this policy, strategy, function or service ... ?	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

(1) What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?

Aims:	To reduce Council spending.
Objectives:	To reduce Council spending.
Outcomes:	A reduction in Council spending.
Benefits:	A reduction in Council spending.

(2) Which groups might be affected and how? Is it positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this?		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	Reduced access to facilities as a result of the removal or reduction of community transport services, which may increase social isolation.	Annual returns from operators indicate that a high percentage of users are from the older generation.
Disability	Reduced access to facilities as a result of the removal or reduction of community transport services, which may increase social isolation.	Annual returns from operators indicate that a high percentage of users have additional mobility needs.
Gender Reassignment	None	Whilst services may be affected in some areas, no particular group will be disadvantaged.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None	
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	
Race	None	
Religion or Belief	None	
Sex	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	
Further Comments:		
If any (additional) adverse impacts in relation to any of the groups listed above should arise from the upcoming public consultation exercise, the service will review this assessment.		

(3) Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consideration will be given when launching the consultation to producing hardcopies of the questionnaire, so that those without access to IT services, will also still be able to submit comments.	

Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing the available community transport revenue grant may impact some users, however, it is anticipated that community transport capital grant will be available in 2024/25 which may enable operators to invest in capital assets to assist with transition.	

(4) Identify next steps as appropriate:	
EqIA Stage 2 required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Owner of EqIA Stage Two:	Emma Jameson
Timescale for EqIA Stage Two:	31/01/2024

Name: Emma Jameson

Date: 15/11/2023