

Equality Impact Assessment- Stage 2 Template

Table 1: Defining the Policy

Title of Policy:	Restructuring of Supported Bus Services
Service:	Development & Environment
Team:	Roads & Transportation
<p>What is the purpose of the proposed policy or changes to established policy?</p> <p>To better target Clackmannanshire Council supported bus services to serve intending passengers and attract additional passengers while achieving an annual saving in the Supported Bus Service Budget of £100,000. The aim is to maintain, so far as is possible, the geographic coverage and frequency of supported bus services. Where it is not possible to fully retain the existing geographic coverage priority will be given to areas which generate the greatest passenger demand and which have least access to alternative commercial services.</p>	
<p>Who is affected by the policy or who is intended to benefit from the proposed policy and how?</p> <p>Those affected include intending and potential users of the supported bus services.</p>	
<p>How have you, or will you, put the policy into practice? Who will be responsible for delivering it?</p> <p>The aim is to commence operation of the restructured supported bus services in August 2015, at the commencement of the school autumn term. The new services will be operated by the existing contract holder and best value will be achieved by negotiation. Ultimate responsibility for the specification of the service rests with the Head of Development & Environment Services, supported by officers in the Joint Public Transport Co-ordination Centre. Actual delivery of the service will be by private bus operator under contract to the Council. The restructured services will be delivered using brand new, fully accessible, low floor buses with space for wheelchair users and children's buggies.</p>	

Table 2

In the Stage 1 Screening you identified that the policy will impact on one or more of the protected characteristics.

What information do you have that tell you how this policy might have an impact.
Key Questions:

- Will the impact of the proposed policy/function be the same or different for each group identified.
- Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake of services by different groups?
- Are there any groups of people who are not taking up services?

Protected Characteristic	What Evidence do you have and Consultation has been undertaken
Age	<p>Statistics are held on the number of National Entitlement Card (NEC) card holders who use each of the bus services. Criteria for the issue of an NEC card are age (above 60) or disability. Depending on the bus service the number of NEC card holders using the service ranges from 41% (Service C70 Sunday, annual passengers 962) to 90% (Service C64, annual passengers 41,414). It is not possible to differentiate between users in terms of age or disability.</p> <p>Two Budget Consultation events took place (26-1-15; 3-2-15) specifically looking to identify potential impacts on those with disabilities. These events were attended by NHS Disability Adviser; Whins Resource Centre Staff and Service Users and the Disability Access Group. The events identified capacity issues on the existing buses for wheelchairs and child buggies</p>
Disability	See above

Table 3: What is the impact on the protected characteristics identified?(see Step 3 of guidelines)

Protected Characteristic	Impact (H,M,L or U)*	Description of Impact
Age	M	The frequency of supported bus services will be reduced in some areas meaning that passengers would have less choice of when to travel. Supported bus services will be withdrawn from certain areas. Generally these areas are either served directly by commercial services or are within a short distance from alternative services. Areas which are not close to alternative services will continue to be served by supported bus services or commercial services. It is intended that the restructured services will be operated using new, fully accessible, low floor buses which will be of benefit to users.
Disability	M	See above

Table 4: Does the policy need to be changed?(see step 4 of Guidelines)

Are there any changes?		
Protected Characteristic		Description
Age	No	In developing the proposed supported bus service routes and timings account has been taken of the number of NEC pass holders (age or disability) using the routes as well as the proximity and frequency of alternative services. As a result it is not considered that there is a need for the policy to be changed.
Disability	No	See above

Approved by:

Name (Head of Service)	
Date	12th May 2015