



Ref No: EQ440590476

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Title of report: Subsidised Bus Services

Report : To consider and determine how to proceed in respect of the operation of a number of the Council's subsidised bus services.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.: Analysis of service data (e.g I-card), Statistics of usage of IBC subsidised bus services

Service area: Customer Services

Corporate Manager: Helen Pluck

Corporate Manager email: Helen.Pluck@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available: See attached

Please upload any supporting documents: Subsidised Bus Services Report 090822 App A.docx

What is proposed?: To consider and determine how to proceed in respect of the operation of a number of the Council's subsidised bus services.

Why are the changes being introduced?: The Council subsidises a number of bus services which are not commercially viable. The current contracts (known as 'service subsidy agreements') expire on 25th September 2022 and decisions are now required on how to proceed with their replacement, taking into account the extent to which there is a continuing need to provide such services together with the level of funding that the Council can afford to commit to this function. The matter is going to the Council's Executive Committee because the proposals include a reduction in the level of provision on some services (for financial reasons) and the Council's Scheme of Officer Delegations does not allow officers to make a decision to withdraw public services, and also because at least one of the proposed new service subsidy agreements is beyond the maximum limit that Contract Standing Orders allows officers to award.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?: Statistics of usage of the existing IBC subsidised bus services, including the level of concessionary patronage and the subsidy per passenger.

How will this change be implemented?: If approved by the Council's Executive Committee, new

service subsidy agreements will be entered into in respect of those subsidised bus services that are to continue, where as for those that are not formal notification will be made to the affected bus operator.

Age: Negative

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Explanation - Stats identify that the majority of older people use the buses that are above the red line in the Executive report, however consideration is given that all bus services are used by older people.

Some age related or eyesight related condition may mean that older people use buses as their only means of transport (whatever time of the day).

Actions / Mitigation - Actively liaise with bus service passengers and relevant groups where visible to provide information on alternative options to lesson the impact of any proposed change to services.

Disability: Negative

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Explanation - Stats identify that the majority of people with disabilities use the buses that are above the red line however consideration is given that all bus services are used by people with disabilities due to the accessibility and availability of some services.

Actions / Mitigation - Actively liaise with bus service passengers and disability groups where visible and use social media to advise on the potential changes to late bus services.

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The proposals in this report do not have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

Race: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The proposals in this report do not have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy & Maternity: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The proposals in this report do not have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

Religion or Belief: Negative

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Explanation - May have an impact on individuals returning home after attending Sunday evening church sessions also applicable to other faiths that may meet on weekday evenings.

Actions / Mitigation - Actively liaise with bus service passengers and faith groups where visible to advise on the potential changes to late bus services.

Gender Reassignment: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The proposals in this report do not have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

Sex: Negative

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: Explanation - Individuals working in the Night Time Economy may rely on the late bus as their only means of transport to get home. This change to services may impact women in particular (who may have a higher perception of the fear of crime).

Actions / Mitigation - Work with the Safer Streets team to ensure that messages about safe routes home are disseminated to all Night Time Economy workers.

Sexual Orientation: No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.: The proposals in this report do not have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives: I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s): By ensuring that the bus service which has high levels of concessionary patronage continues to receive Council funding so that it continues to operate.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): By ensuring that the bus service which has high levels of concessionary patronage continues to receive Council funding so that it continues to operate.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): By ensuring that the bus service which has high levels of concessionary patronage continues to receive Council funding so that it continues to operate.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s): Usage statistics will be received in respect of those bus services which continue and these will be reviewed and assessed to help determine future decisions.
