

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Initial Screening Form



Screening determines whether the policy has any relevance for equality, ie is there any impact on one or more of the 9 protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership*
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

1. Policy/service/function title	MSDC: Ringfenced funding for electric bus rural transport
2. Lead officer (responsible for the policy/service/function)	Fiona Duhamel / Katherine Davies
3. Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New
4. What exactly is proposed? (Describe the policy/service/ function and the changes that are being planned?)	<p>That MSDC tender for the delivery of a bus provision, utilising electric and wheelchair accessible vehicles, to bring people from surrounding rural villages into Stowmarket, with a focus on enhancing and complimenting the shuttle bus provision that will be provided by Gateway 14 later onlater in 2023.</p> <p>Cabinet areis to consider this proposal, or whether to pause/delay the investment of this funding for the time being to allow time to learn lessons from other similar recently finished or ongoing pilot projects, and other upcoming changing factors within the space of passenger and community transport.</p>
5. Why? (Give reasons why these changes are being introduced)	Funding for the provision some rural transport utilising utilising electric buses has been ringfenced within MSDC budgets, with the aim to address current issues regarding lack of passenger transport in certain areas, and the barriers this creates.
6. How will it be implemented? (Describe the decision making process, timescales, process for implementation)	<p>Whichever option or timeline cabinet ageesagrees to, if the project is to proceed it will be implemented via a tender process to commission a suitable delivery partner.</p> <p>If option 1 is selected, this tender process will need to take place ahead of autumn 2023 and be focused on the areas</p>

	<p>surrounding Stowmarket. If option 2 is selected, the tender process may take place later than this and could focus on another/other areas within Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>Regardless of project timeline, if the council does proceed to tender for a delivery partner for this provision, then the tender will specifey<u>specify</u> that any provision is open and accessible to all, and that the project is delivered in line with the council's policies around equality and inclusion.</p>
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<p>7. Is there potential for differential impact (negative or positive) on any of the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>8. Is there the possibility of discriminating unlawfully, directly or indirectly, against people from any protected characteristic?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>9. Could there be an effect on relations between certain groups?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>10. Does the policy explicitly involve, or focus on a particular equalities group, i.e. because they have particular needs?</p>	<p>No</p>

If the answers are 'no' to questions 7-10 then there is no need to proceed to a full impact assessment and this form should then be signed off as appropriate.

If 'yes' then a full impact assessment must be completed.

Authors signature Katherine Davies

Date of completion 16th January 2023

Any queries concerning the completion of this form should be addressed to the Equality and Diversity Lead.

* Public sector duty does not apply to marriage and civil partnership.