

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

THE STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT FORM - the initial screening process

SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION BEING ASSESSED: Concessionary travel.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE, POLICY OR FUNCTION: (e.g. main purpose, users or beneficiaries etc)

The Council administers the National Travel Scheme. This is a statutory service. It enables free travel on local bus services for residents within the district who are aged 60 or over, or who are disabled as defined by Govt prescribed criteria. To use the service residents are provided with a bus pass which must be presented on all journeys and which remains valid for a 3-year period.

Costs associated with the scheme are calculated by a formula and distributed amongst authorities by reference to where a journey starts. A return trip is classed as 2 separate journeys. The period for free travel is prescribed by the Govt. It currently starts at 9:30 running though to 23:00. Council's may at their discretion extend that period. Consequently reverse journey's may or may not be free, dependent upon the starting point and time of the journey.

Express coach travel is not covered by the scheme. Residents bear the normal cost of those journeys.

Bus pass holders should inform the Council of any change in their address at the time of the change.

The Council also operates a discretionary concessionary travel policy which provides some severely disabled residents in the district who by the nature of their disablement are unable to use or access local bus services. Vouchers to the value £100 is granted are issued to those residents to use at their discretion with local taxi service.

Any resident of the district aged 60 or over is able to purchase discounted Railcards from the Council in order to obtain reduced fares on the rail network.

Common issues within the service:

- Residents can be confused by disparity between the schemes of neighbouring authorities.
- Residents can be confused by the distinction between local bus services and express coach travel.

The most common alternative languages likely to occur across the district are Polish, Portuguese and Kurdish (Source: ISCRE). Staff regularly deal with individuals from China, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Turkey and other European Union countries.

A wide range of faith groups exist across the district, the most common of which are Christian (Church of England and Roman Catholic, etc) Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs.

Please indicate if it is an existing area of service or a new area/project: Existing

| Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i> | Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i> | Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i> | Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i> | If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i> |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Age | Yes. The National Travel scheme is specifically intended to support residents aged 60 or over. The Council also allows free travel at any time of the day for journeys starting in the District. Bus pass holders are also eligible for reduced fares on the Shotley-Felixstowe-Harwich ferry. Discounted Railcards allow access and reduced fares on the rail network. | No. The National Travel scheme is specifically intended to support residents aged 60 or over. | No. Although the National Travel Scheme has an age threshold that does not disadvantage other individuals. | |
| Belief or faith | No. An individual's faith or beliefs does not feature in the operation of the National Travel Scheme. | Yes. People of any belief or faith can access the National Travel Schemes. | No. An individual's faith or beliefs does not exclude them from the National Travel Scheme. | |

| Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i> | Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i> | Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i> | Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i> | If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i> |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Disability | <p>Yes. The National Travel scheme is specifically intended to support residents who are disabled.</p> <p>The Council also allows free travel at any time of the day for journeys starting in the District. Bus pass holders are also eligible for reduced fares on the Shotley-Felixstowe-Harwich ferry.</p> <p>Assistance to the value of £100 is available for disabled residents unable to use the National Free Travel scheme. Documents are available in Braille, audio and large text. Our Hadleigh offices are DDA compliant.</p> <p>The Babergh website enables changes in text size or audio descriptions.</p> | <p>No. The National Travel scheme is specifically intended to support disabled residents.</p> | <p>Yes. The Council only has the resource to fund a partial solution for disabled residents unable to make practical use of a bus pass. Replicating the freedom of free travel enjoyed by bus pass holders is too costly. Consequently they some disabled people may face more difficulty and expense with their travel arrangements. Other organisations may however be filling the gap. E.g mobility vehicles,</p> <p>.</p> | <p>Low –Disabled residents in this situation often have other assistance with travel from other sources.</p> |

| Target Equality Group <i>(see guidance note 2 for details)</i> | Does it have a Positive Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 6 for details)</i> | Does it have a Neutral Impact If yes, please explain how <i>(see guidance note 9 for details)</i> | Does it have a Negative Impact If yes please explain how, indicate if it is legal and whether or not it is intended. <i>(see guidance note 7 for details)</i> | If it has a negative impact, is the level of this impact high or low? <i>(see guidance note 10 for details)</i> |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Sexual Orientation | No. An individual's sexual orientation does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. | Yes. An individual's sexual orientation does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or three Council's discretionary policies | No. An individual's sexual orientation does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies | |
| Gender | No. An individual's gender does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. | Yes. An individual's gender does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. | No. An individual's gender does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. | |
| Race | Yes. Documents are available in alternative languages. Translation services are available on the Babergh website. Language support is available via language line for face to face visitors or telephone enquiries when the need arises. | Yes. An individual's race does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. | No. An individual's race does not feature in the administration of the National Travel Scheme or the Council's discretionary policies. Consequently there is a low likelihood of negative impact. | |

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IF ANY AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH LOW LEVEL NEGATIVE IMPACT

IS THE IMPACT LIKELY TO CHANGE OVER TIME?

Yes

IF YES, HOW WILL THE IMPACT CHANGE?

The number of people who cannot use the service will inevitably fluctuate over time. Equalities legislation has ensured greater recognition of the needs of disabled people and easier physical access to services. Expectations of the disabled have increased and will continue to increase as a result. New technologies allow greater mobility. E.g. motorised multi purpose electric wheel chairs. Action may be required to increase the level of support the travel needs of the severely disabled.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE OR REMOVE ANY *UNINTENDED* NEGATIVE IMPACT?

Review the travel vouchers scheme with a view, if possible and necessary, to increase the amount of support available each year.

Ensure all new staff receive equality and diversity awareness training as part of their induction course and all staff are regularly refreshed.

HOW COULD YOU MONITOR THIS WORK?

Regular consultation with disabled people in this category and organisations providing similar support or advice to the disabled.

IF YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED ANY AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF NEGATIVE IMPACT IS HIGH PLEASE REFER TO YOUR HEAD OF SERVICE PRIOR TO COMPLETING A STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT FORM

Signed:Service Manager undertaking the Assessment.

Date: