



## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for policies, procedures and services.

Guidance document to be used with this form:

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for policies, procedures and services guidance.

	Date proposal first worked on	05/02/16
	Date proposal completed	11/02/16
Proposal name	West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2016/17	
Directorate	Economy & Environment	
Service	Regeneration & Development - Strategic Transportation	
Responsible Officer	Matt Crowton x4358 <a href="mailto:matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk">matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy	Yes	Revision
	Procedure	No	
	Internal service	No	
	External service	No	
	Other - give detail		

2	What are the intended outcomes, reasons for change, who it is intended to benefit and how the proposal can impact on equality groups?
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The intended outcome is a political decision to approve the allocation of Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block (ITB) capital funding to Walsall programmes and projects in 2016/17.

The reasons for change is the need to politically approve the programme for the next 12 months and ensure that funding is utilised to deliver schemes which comply with the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan as well as proving transparent reasoning for the those schemes selected to be delivered to the accountable body, the Integrated Transport Authority.

The intended beneficiaries are:-

- Residents of Walsall
- People who travel to/from Walsall
- People who travel through Walsall
- People who operate, or want to operate, businesses in Walsall.

The proposal can impact on equality groups by ensuring that appropriate facilities are provided as part of future transport projects that cater for all needs. People in our communities with disabilities will benefit from the introduction of aids such a tactile paving at pedestrian crossing points. Improvement to pedestrian infrastructure will also benefit those with a mobility and/or visual impairment.

Additionally the prioritisation methodology incorporates enhanced beneficitation towards residents who live in the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas of the borough, increasing the opportunity for transport schemes to be delivered there.

### **3 Summarise your business case, engagement and consultation.**

The business case for making a policy decision on prioritising Integrated Transport Block schemes is that in order to secure future funds, the local authority must manage and deliver transport schemes which adhere to the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan objectives.

Engagement and consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan. This document includes all objectives that schemes must aim to meet.

Consultation and engagement activities included:-

- Circulating draft documents for comment;
- Inviting questionnaire responses;
- Making the document available by various channels;
- Publicising the draft documents.

There were no equality impacting issues raised in any of the consultations.

**4 How does the proposal help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act?**

Major, strategic and road safety transportation schemes can help contribute to reducing time spent travelling, reduce congestion, lessen driver 'stress', improve road safety for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, and better access to existing and new employment opportunities. Persons with mobility needs and elderly and vulnerable pedestrians stand to benefit from wider footways, tactile paving, dropped kerbs, refuges, and controlled and uncontrolled crossing points.

**5 How does the proposal help to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it;**

Any civil engineering contractor appointed by the Council to help deliver this project will be required, as a minimum, to promote the Council's equality and diversity policies through their approach to project delivery.

Designs will include features that address the needs of a wide range of client groups, for example:-

- Safety of pedestrians and cyclists

- Improved access to existing and new employment opportunities; and
- Facilities designed for people with mobility needs and elderly people - wider footways, tactile paving, dropped kerbs, refuges, controlled and uncontrolled crossing points.

**6 How does the proposal help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.**

Any civil engineering contractor appointed by the Council to help deliver this project will be required, as a minimum to promote the Council's equality and diversity policies through their approach to project delivery.

Designs will include features that address the needs of a wide range of client groups, for example :-

- Safety of pedestrians and cyclists;
- Improved access to existing and new employment opportunities; and
- Facilities designed for people with mobility needs and elderly people - wider footways, tactile paving, dropped kerbs, refuges, controlled and uncontrolled crossing points.

**7 Does your proposal impact on any other service that jointly could have a severe impact on particular equality groups? If yes, give details** **Yes / No**

No

**8 What justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation suggest you take?** **Yes / No**

A	No major change required	Yes
B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality	No
C	Continue despite possible adverse impact	No
D	Stop and rethink your proposal	No

### Action and monitoring plan

Ref	Date	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Outcome
1	11/02/16	EqlA for each major project (£5m+) part-funded from this programme	Strategic Transportation	By 01/05/16	