

Surrey County Council Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening Form



Please read pages 9-14 of the EIA toolkit for guidance before completing this form

Service: Services for Communities	Policy: Second & Third Local Transport Plan		Name of officer: Martin Robarts	
1. Is this a major policy: i.e. high profile / will effect many people / will have a severe effect on some people?	Yes	√	No	
	High risk. Complete a full EIA		Go to section 2	
2. Is the policy likely to have an impact on a specific group of people? (People from the E&D strands)	Yes		No	√
3. For policies that have a low risk of impact on the E&D strands and where possible improvements have been identified complete section 5 below and sections 3 and 4 of the full EIA.	High risk. Complete a full EIA		Go to section 3	

4. For policies that have a low risk of impact on the E&D strands and require no action to be taken complete section 5 below.

Aims: The intention of the County Council in preparing and completing the Surrey Transport Plan (LTP) is to discharge its legal responsibilities as transport and highway authority. It aims to carry out this responsibility by having an appropriate regard to the interests of all people that live and work in the county.

Purpose: The LTP is a statutory document and the second version of the plan was published in March 2006. The plan comprises objectives and targets, an overall strategy and a five-year programme to improve transport.

Objectives: In preparing the Surrey LTP Local Transport Plan the County Council have the goal of consulting in as much detail and with as wide a range of people and representative organisations as is reasonably possible. This is to ensure that their views on the contents of the Plan are known and can be taken into account in the preparation of the Plan.

Outcomes: A large number of responses, verbal and written, have been received on the contents of the Plan. These views have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan. The key outcome therefore is a Plan which reflects the views of Surrey communities and which aims to improve transport services for them.

Stakeholder groups: A wide range of groups across the Age, Belief/Faith, Disability and Race strands have been consulted in preparation of the Plan. A large number of views have been received from men and women regarding the objectives, targets, strategy and the implementation programme.

Actions: The consultation arrangements for the Surrey Local Transport Plan have been assessed as excellent by the Government Office for the South East, as reported in the December 2006 Settlement Letter. The next and third Local Transport Plan will be prepared over the next two years, with publication anticipated in 2010. The Equality Impact Assessment procedures will be applied in development of the third LTP, and once again a full range of groups and individuals will be consulted across equality and diversity strands.

5. If this policy is low risk please give or attach evidence to indicate how you have reached this conclusion:

Surrey County Council is the transport and highway authority for Surrey and in this capacity has a statutory obligation to produce the Local Transport Plan. The aim and purpose of the plan is to ensure that Surrey has a strategy to improve transport for people in the county, and a five-year transport programme that acts as a bid for government funding.

The Local Transport Plan is a strategic level document that is concerned with high-level approaches to transport problems in Surrey rather than detailed actions. As such, it is unlikely to impact people in the equality groups any differently from the impact on the general Surrey population. The five-year programme of schemes is only designed to provide a broad indication of the type of measures that the County Council plans to implement if government funding and other sources of finance become available. The Local Transport Plan does not feature detail about specific schemes and is not the mechanism for gaining approval for individual proposals.

Any significant scheme or proposal has to undergo a process of development and consultation which is separate from the Local Transport Plan, but must be consistent with the overall strategy of the plan. It is these detailed transport proposals where there could be potential to discriminate against people in the equality groups – for example the new major transport scheme for the transport hubs at Guildford, Reigate-Redhill and Woking. Equalities Impacts Assessments may need to be carried out on the process of developing and consulting on any significant transport proposals, and these EIAs would consider detailed local issues that are not dealt with in the strategic level Local Transport Plan.

Nevertheless, the consultation on the second Local Transport Plan was extensive and as noted above, was considered to have reached an “excellent” standard according to the Government Office for the South East. Where the analysis of the consultation indicated that there was a relatively low response rate from one of the equality groups, additional efforts were made to overcome the imbalance. Sixth form colleges were approached directly to obtain feedback from young people so that overall, the consultation response was more representative of the general Surrey population.

The preparation of the second Local Transport Plan included public consultation with the community and a wide range of representative organisations. No complaints or specific issues arose from any of the equality groups, and there is no evidence of a discernible adverse impact or discrimination against any of the groups.

The Government is planning to publish guidance on the next round of statutory Local Transport Plans at the end of 2008 or early 2009. Surrey County Council will be required to produce a third Local Transport Plan during 2009 and 2010, dealing with the period 2011 to 2016. Preparation of the plan including the consultation exercise will incorporate the requirements of the equalities process.

6 Please state where, if at all, you think the policy has a neutral effect on equality groups:

Age	Belief/faith	Disability	Gender	Race	Sexual Orientation	HR Issues
Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	N/A

Equality and Diversity strands that the policy is to be assessed against:	Age		Belief / Faith		Disability		Gender		Race		Sexual Orientation		HR Issues Only	
	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
Could the policy have a negative or positive impact? (Yes/No)														
													n/a	n/a

Head of Service Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Surrey County Council Full Equality Impact Assessment



1. Summary of impact identified by equality and diversity strand:

<p>Age Positive or Negative Impact:</p>	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a discernible adverse impact on this strand. The Local Transport Plan aims to improve transport accessibility for people.</p> <p>People who are unable to visit libraries, and help shops and other public outlets could view the consultation documents on the County Council's web pages.</p> <p>Those people who are unable to visit such buildings and cannot access the consultation documents by computer are covered by the current custom and practice of the Communities Service, which is to meet any reasonable request for documentation sympathetically.</p> <p>We offer to make the documentation available in large print or in an alternative format if necessary.</p> <p>Where the analysis of the consultation indicated that there was a relatively low response rate from one of the equality groups, additional efforts were made to overcome the imbalance. Sixth form colleges were approached directly to obtain feedback from young people so that overall, the consultation response was more representative of the general Surrey population.</p>
<p>Belief / Faith Positive or Negative Impact:</p>	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a discernible impact on this strand.</p> <p>See the Age strand for the general arrangements made for consultation.</p>

<p>Disability Positive or Negative Impact:</p>	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a Discernible adverse impact on this strand.</p> <p>See the Age strand for the general arrangements made for consultation.</p> <p>People who are unable to visit libraries, and help shops and other public outlets could view the consultation documents on the County Council's web pages.</p> <p>Those people who are unable to visit such buildings and cannot access the consultation documents by computer are covered by the current custom and practice of the Communities Service, which is to meet any reasonable request for documentation sympathetically.</p> <p>We offer to make the documentation available in large print or in an alternative format if necessary.</p>
<p>Gender Positive or Negative Impact:</p>	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a discernible impact, due to gender or transgender, on men or women or transgendered people.</p> <p>See the Age strand for the general arrangements made for consultation.</p>
<p>Race Positive or Negative Impact:</p>	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a discernible differential impact on this strand.</p> <p>See the Age strand for the general arrangements made for consultation.</p> <p>We offer to make the documentation available in an alternative format if necessary, which includes a different language.</p>

Sexual Orientation Positive or Negative Impact:	<p>None of the responses received in the consultations highlighted evidence which indicates that there is a discernible differential impact on this strand.</p> <p>The proposals and policies in the Plan apply to the community as a whole and evidence collected does not suggest that on this group will be any different from the impact on the general Surrey population.</p>
HR issues only: Positive or Negative Impact:	N/ A

Please continue and attach a separate sheet if necessary

1. Give details of involvement and consultation or research undertaken for each relevant equality and diversity strand, upon which this policy has had an impact either internally or externally:



The County Council as transport and highway authority has a statutory duty to consult with the public regarding its Local Transport Plan. Consultation on the plan included the following elements:

- A **MORI public opinion survey** based on in-home interviews with residents to assess attitudes to transport in Surrey and to identify possible improvements for the future.
- A **questionnaire**, accompanying a **booklet summarising the progress** since the LTP process began and providing information on the development of the second LTP.

- Questionnaire/booklet **distributed widely** to representative groups, libraries, help shops and other public outlets.
- A **telephone interview survey** carried out with business organisations, including the Chambers of Commerce and major employers, via the Surrey Economic Partnership.
- A **website version of the summary leaflet** and questionnaire.
- **Workshops, seminars** and other forms of consultation in each of the 11 Local Transport Service Areas, involving the general public and representatives of parish and town councils, residents' associations, amenity groups and
- other local interest groups and organisations.
- **Engagement with single interest groups**, particularly in developing strategies and identifying problems and opportunities from their perspective.
- A series of **transport forums** meeting regularly to consider transport issues in Surrey including the area passenger transport forums and district cycle forums. Members of the three area passenger transport forums also meet annually as a combined countywide passenger transport assembly.
- Focus group feedback, and other **stakeholder engagement as part of the County Council's Community Strategy** – 'Surrey in 2020', has directly informed the second LTP, particularly the longer-term strategy. Focus groups are also used in development of road safety schemes and other proposals.
- **Joint working** with borough and district councils in Surrey and neighbouring local authorities, on a range of projects. We have also closely consulted with neighbouring London boroughs on the development of their Local Implementation Plans (LIPs), seeking their comments on the development of the second LTP.
- **Partnership arrangements** with health, education, social services authorities, public transport operators and other organisations to work collaboratively on projects of joint interest

Age	See above
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Disability	See above
Belief / Faith	See above
Gender	See above
Race	See above
Sexual Orientation	See above
HR issues only:	N / A

Please continue and attach a separate sheet if necessary

2. Recommendations to improve this policy:

It is the intention of the County Council to require that all public consultations be accompanied by a request for consultees to indicate when they respond whether they fall into one or more of the equality groups.

Age.

None

Belief / Faith.

None

Disability.

None

Race.

None

Sexual Orientation

None

Please continue and attach a separate sheet if necessary

4. Actions required to implement the EIA recommendations:



Action Plan:	Responsibility:	Date to be completed:
Notify Transport for Surrey group managers of the EIA and the need for them and their teams to consider equality impacts in the development of significant transport proposals.	M Robarts	Nov 2008

Please continue and attach a separate sheet if necessary

5. If no actions to be taken with respect to the recommendations please give reasons below:



Action plan review date: _____ **Name of person responsible for review:**

EIA Assessor(s): ___Martin Robarts Lyndon Mendes___

Name Head of Service: ___Iain Reeve_____ Signed: _____

Date Completed: _____

- 1. Signed hard copy and electronic version to be kept in your team for audit purposes**
- 2. Send an electronic copy to the SCC 'Web Operations Team'**

Date sent to Web Operations Team: _____