

# Community Impact Assessment

**Relating to:** Elmbridge Transport Major Scheme Bid

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## Introduction

This Impact Assessment supports the County Council in meeting its legal obligations under the **Public Sector Equality Duty**, now contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Duty ensures that public bodies consider the needs of *all* individuals whether developing policies, making decisions, delivering services, or in relation to an organisation's own employees.

Section 149 provides that in exercising its functions an authority must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and others who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and others who do not share it involves having due regard (in particular) to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it involves having due regard (in particular) to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding.

It is important to note that the requirements of the duty may involve a degree of positive discrimination, particularly in respect of the disabled.

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The protected characteristics to which the duty applies are defined as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, also marriage and civil partnership but only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination.

Having **due regard to** means consciously thinking about the aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision making, when the proposals are still at a formative stage, and before a decision is reached. This means that consideration of equality issues must influence the decisions reached by public bodies. The Equality Duty must be exercised in substance, with rigour and with an open mind.

Indirect discrimination occurs where a condition criterion or practice is applied which would put people with one of the protected characteristics at a disadvantage, and the imposition of that condition, criterion or practice is not a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim, i.e. it cannot be objectively justified.

It is important to understand and consider how different people will be affected by the decisions the Council makes, so that policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs.

This assessment will help you think about the potential impact your proposals will have on all sections of the community. Recognising these impacts early on in the process of developing policies will assist good decision making and ensure that the County Council delivers services appropriate to people's needs. Remember that the Equality Duty involves having due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, as well as eliminate discrimination.

**1. Person responsible for undertaking this assessment:**

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<b>Service: Strategic Planning team</b>	<b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Amanda.lawson-smith@gloucestershire.gov.uk">Amanda.lawson-smith@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></b>
	<b>Date of Assessment: 29/12/11</b>

## 2. Name and brief description of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function: (indicate whether new or revised) REVISED

### **Elmbridge Transport Major Scheme Bid.**

The Department for Transport has awarded GCC programme entry and (subject to full approval being obtained) £14.1m for construction of the Elmbridge Transport Major scheme.

## 3. Briefly describe its aims and expected outcomes

To support the objectives of Local Transport Plan (LTP3) by providing a safe and sustainable transport network within Gloucestershire. The scheme comprises:

- Capacity improvements to the Elmbridge Court junction - by constructing a new "straight on" lane between A40 Golden Valley bypass to A40 Gloucester Northern bypass.
- 1,000 space P&R site, adjacent to the Elmbridge Court Business Park, with access off the A40 Golden Valley bypass;
- A frequent bus service serving Elmbridge Court and Arle Court P&R sites to the centres of Gloucester and Cheltenham;
- Four bus priority schemes at the following locations:
  1. A40 Golden Valley Bypass, Gloucester - bus lane on (Gloucester bound) approach to Elmbridge Court from the P&R site;
  2. Arle Court junction, Cheltenham - bus lanes on the Staverton Lane and A40 (Gloucester bound) approaches;
  3. Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham - bus lane on the A40 (Cheltenham bound) approach; and
  4. Westal Green Gyratory, Cheltenham - bus lane on the A40 (Gloucester bound) section.

Major Scheme bids are required to be assessed positively against the Government's overarching objectives for transport, namely:

- Environment
- Safety
- Economy

- Accessibility
- Integration.

The Elmbridge Scheme generates significant benefits to consumers, business users and the private sector operator, which comfortably cover the expense to the public accounts. Safety and security are improved, through a reduction in accidents and CCTV coverage, carbon production is reduced by persuading more people to travel by public transport rather than car.

**4. Describe how this policy will impact on the Council's duty to:**

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

Identify what particular groups of people will be affected by this policy.

The Elmbridge Transport major scheme will benefit those who live and work in Cheltenham and Gloucester, parts of Tewkesbury and the villages in between, by providing a new park and ride facility at Elmbridge Court serving Gloucester, improved bus lane facilities in both Cheltenham and Gloucester and improved frequency and quality of public transport serving both urban areas.

Congestion will be reduced at Elmbridge Court roundabout, bringing travel time benefits for car users, as well as public transport users. Improved public transport will benefit non-car households, mostly the young and elderly.

**5. Provide details of the evidence you have gathered in making this assessment, including data sources, consultation undertaken and the outcome/s of this.**

Major Scheme bids are required to be assessed positively against the Government's overarching objectives for transport, namely:

- Environment
- Safety
- Economy
- Accessibility
- Integration.

A full bid submission has been compiled and made to the Government. It includes full traffic modelling, economic appraisal and value for money assessment and safety assessment.

The Elmbridge Scheme generates significant benefits to consumers, business users and the private sector operator, which comfortably cover the expense to the public accounts. Safety and security are improved, through a reduction in accidents and CCTV coverage, carbon production is reduced by persuading more people to travel by public transport rather than car.

**6. Is this Policy affected by, or will it have an impact on other Meeting the Challenge proposals? Yes. (If yes, please specify relevant project and indicate how it is affected).**

There will be a Council financial commitment to provide £1m of funding towards the scheme, and to meet any additional scheme costs should they arise, over and above that currently forecast.

**7. Where any particular group is affected differently by the policy in either a negative or a positive way, if you identify a negative impact, explain what actions you have undertaken or you plan to undertake, including consideration of any alternative proposals, to lessen or negate this impact.**

	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Evidence	Mitigating actions where a negative impact has been identified	How will the mitigating action be monitored/evaluated, including who will be responsible for

						<b>monitoring.</b>
<b>Age</b>		√		Improved public transport positively improves accessibility for non-car households.	N/A	N/A

<b>Disability (indicate different impacts on different types of disability)</b>		√		Improved public transport positively improves accessibility for people with disabilities, who are unable to drive, but are able to use accessible public transport.	N/A	N/A
<b>Gender reassignment</b>			√	There is no specific reference to gender in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on gender.	N/A	N/A
<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>			√	There is no specific reference to marriage and civil partnership in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on marriage and civil partnership.	N/A	N/A
<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>			√	There is no specific reference to pregnancy and maternity in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on pregnancy and maternity.	N/A	N/A

<b>Race (including Gypsy &amp; Traveller)</b>			√	There is no specific reference to race in the bid to the LSTF. It is not foreseen that the Elmbridge Transport bid will have negative or positive impacts on race.		
<b>Religion or Belief</b>			√	There is no specific reference to religion or belief in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on religion or belief.	N/A	N/A
<b>Sex</b>			√	There is no specific reference to sex or sexual orientation in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on sex or sexual orientation.	N/A	N/A
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			√	There is no specific reference to sex or sexual orientation in the Elmbridge Transport bid. It is not foreseen that the bid will have negative or positive impacts on sex or sexual orientation.	N/A	N/A
<b>Indirect Discrimination</b>			√	It is not foreseen that the Elmbridge Transport bid will have negative or positive impacts in terms of indirect discrimination as a result of the actions planned.	N/A	N/A

<b>Other groups: e.g. rural isolation, long term unemployed, health inequality, carers</b>		v		People in these other group categories may be more dependent on public transport, community transport and taxi services. The Elmbridge Transport Scheme will improve public transport links between Cheltenham and Gloucester, and provide lower income non-car owning households additional opportunities to access Gloucester and Cheltenham.	N/A	N/A
<b>Socio-economically deprived groups</b>		v		<p>People in socio-economically deprived groups in Cheltenham and Gloucester may benefit from the economic growth and accessibility opportunities (through improved public transport between Cheltenham and Gloucester.</p> <p>Improved public transport and shorter journey times will benefit all users.</p>	N/A	N/A
<b>Community Cohesion</b>	Provide details of any ways in which the proposed activity would promote equality in the community between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and how it would promote good relations between such groups			The improvements to public transport between Cheltenham and Gloucester will encourage mode shift from private car to public transport, as well as providing an additional park and ride site for Gloucester. Use of public	N/A	N/A

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there equality between those who will and won't benefit from the proposal?</li> <li>• Are there strong relationships between groups and communities in the area affected and will the proposed action promote positive relationships?</li> <li>• Does the proposal bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other?</li> </ul>	<p>transport increases social interaction between people.</p>		
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## Declaration

We are satisfied that an Assessment has been carried out and where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact where possible.

Where the impact on equalities of the policy or proposals is very significant, and mitigating actions do not sufficiently lessen the impact, or mitigating actions cannot be identified, we have considered whether to go ahead with the original proposal at all, or whether to reformulate it.

We understand that the Community Impact Assessment is required by the County Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment.

Completed by: Amanda Lawson-Smith

Date: 29/12/11

Role: Principal Planning Officer

Countersigned by Head of Service: Simon Excell

Date: 29/12/11

Name of relevant Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member: Councillor Chas Fellows

I confirm that I have examined and understood the potential impact of the proposal and confirm that I have taken account of the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

..... Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member

Date: .....

Please forward an electronic copy to the Equalities Team by emailing [equalities@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@gloucestershire.gov.uk)