Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Step 5   New and Emerging Policies

Name of Lead Officer: *Keith Harris*

Service Area: *Environmental Services*

Service Delivery Unit: *Highways & Transport*

Name of Policy / Function being assessed: *Local Transport Plan*

For new and emerging strategies / policies / functions that will require approval at Director's Board or Cabinet, this equality impact assessment process should be completed during development, and prior to presentation at Director's Board.

1.   What is the scope of the policy/function/practice?

Think about:	The Transport Act 2000 requires all Highway Authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) which sets out a long term Vision, strategy, objectives and action plan for improving and maintaining local transport infrastructure and services. It provides the policy background and plan for how the Council and its partners will ensure that local transport services and infrastructure will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of Telford & Wrekin.
• Explaining the policy or function to an outsider • What does it include? • What does it not include? • Who is it chiefly aimed at?	
	The third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for Telford and Wrekin is now being prepared and will set out how we plan to manage, maintain and develop the Borough's transport network over the period 2011 to 2026.
	The LTP will set targets for monitoring progress on delivery. These will include the ten transport National Indicators.
	This Equality Impact Assessment covers the

C:\Documents and Settings\eejoja\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\P85CCQEG\LTP3 EIA Scoping Report.doc

1

Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

	strategic elements of the LTP. Separate and more detailed Equality Impact Assessments will cover individual policies and practices such as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Road Safety Strategy.

2. What is the purpose of the above?

Think about	The LTP will set out how the Council plans to manage, maintain and develop the Borough's transport network over the period 2011 to 2026. It will seek to demonstrate how transport contributes towards the Telford & Wrekin Vision of 'A successful, prosperous and healthy community which offers a good quality of life for all the people of Telford & Wrekin.' It will include policies to promote walking, cycling, public transport, more efficient use of passenger and freight transport, and policies to maintain transport infrastructure including highways, bridges, footways, cycle ways and bus stops.
• What is it trying to do? • What does it aim to achieve? • Would examples help to explain it?	

3. Who is defining or has defined the strategy policy / function and who implements it?

Think about	The Transport Act 2008 retains the statutory requirement for local highway authorities to produce and review Local Transport Plans and to have regard to Government guidance and policies on the environment. The Department for Transport (DfT) issues Statutory guidance to support local transport authorities in producing LTPs. In the latest guidance, the DfT expects authorities to consider their contribution to national transport goals as over-arching priorities for their LTPs. These goals are: • Support economic growth • Reduce carbon emissions • Promote equality of opportunity • Contribute towards better safety, security and health • Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment The goal to 'promote equality of opportunity' includes the challenge to 'enhance social inclusion by enabling disadvantaged people to connect with employment opportunities, key services, social networks and goods through improving accessibility, availability, affordability and acceptability.'
• Is it based on national guidelines or requirements? • Is it based on custom and practice? • Has it grown out of past policies? • Who is involved in its development? Managers/Staff/ elected members/service users?	

	Telford & Wrekin's LTP will be developed having regard to the national guidance, regional policies for transport and local plans, policies and strategies such as the Community Strategy, Local Development Framework Core Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, C&YP Plan etc. Development of the plan will also be informed through analysis of transport issues and problems which includes consultation with transport operators, transport user groups, environmental and equality groups and, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, members of the public.
	This is the third LTP to be produced and in part has evolved from and is built on the previous two Plans.
	The Transport Policy team leads the development of the LTP in co-ordination with Officers from across the Council, external Partners and Members. A joint LTP/LDF Working Group has been set up consisting of Cabinet Members and senior Officers in order to guide the development of the LTP.
	The community also have input into the LTP. They were involved in initial consultation where they were able to identify what they see as the priorities. They will also be involved in further consultation once the draft LTP is ready in November/December 2010.

4. Who are all of the groups of people or organisations that are affected by this policy or function?   (for example: customers / service users / partners / staff)

Think about	Local businesses/employers
• Internal and external people	Transport operators
• Staff, partners, contractors, service users, potential service users, lead bodies,	People who live/work in the Borough Education/training providers Anyone with a travel need in the Borough
• national or regional bodies	
• Voluntary sector groups or organisations	

5. Who are the key people to be involved in the assessment process?

Think about	Strategic Transport Policy Team
• A small team of people with sound knowledge and understanding of the policy	Highways & Transport Team Equality & Diversity Team – Contact is Richard Taylor-Murison 01952 382104.

Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

or function	
• Someone with understanding of the information / data related to this work	
• Possibly a "critical friend", someone who is one step removed from the policy or function who can ask questions you may not ask yourself.	

6. What equality specific data is readily available to help the development of this policy?

Think about	LTP3 consultation survey responses
• Profile of users	T&W Sustainable Community Strategy
• Local statistics / census data	Equality & Diversity Team
• Output information	T&W Equality & Diversity Scheme 2005-2008
• Local / National research	ONS
• Benchmarking information	DfT studies
• Complaints/Comments/	Other national data sources
• Compliments	
• Informal feedback	
Also think about how this data can be broken down to inform you about the different equality groups	

7. What are the particular issues for the groups below in relation to this policy?

Some of the key issues are tabled below. These are not exhaustive:

Age	Young – can be vulnerable to social exclusion through reliance on public transport, walking and cycling. Personal security and the cost of public transport can be a barrier to transport. Younger people often also wish to access transport during evenings/weekends where availability is less
	Elderly – also reliant on public transport and can face particular challenges relating to physical access to public transport. Fear of crime can be a barrier to transport.
Disability	Can face particular challenges relating to physical access to public transport. Access to transport information is a potential barrier, restricting, for instance, deaf and visually impaired people's access to transport services.
Gender/Transgender	Women are likely to be more reliant on public transport

- –   4
C:\Documents and Settings\eejoja\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\P85CCQEG\LTP3 EIA Scoping Report.doc

Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

	than men, which can impact on their access to services. Crime and fear of crime can be more of an issue for women.
Racial group	Access to appropriate transport information is needed to ensure all groups are able to use services to full potential. An inability to read/understand timetables, and access information on different transport modes can disadvantage this group. BME groups can be more reliant on public transport than white people.
Religion or belief	Unlikely to be a major specific issue but issues maybe covered in other groups, in particular racial group. Crime or fear of crime may be experienced/perceived.
Sexual orientation	Unlikely to be a major specific issue, although crime and fear of crime could be a factor to prevent people using public transport.
Location/ Urban / Rural	People in rural areas are prone to lower levels of access to public transport. Sparsity of population in the rural area means commercial services are often unviable and therefore any services at all may not exist to reach even essential facilities (healthcare etc.)
Deprivation	Lack of access to the private motor car is a common cause of social exclusion. Cost of transport is an issue for those on low income who tend to be reliant on public transport and walking/cycling.

8. How are you proposing to address the above issues within the policy?

Age	Seek affordable measures to enhance public transport services, including community based services for the elderly and facilitate safe walking/cycling. Also seek measures to reduce the fear of crime
Disability	Seek affordable measures to enhance public transport services, including community based services.
Gender/Transgender	Seek affordable measures to enhance public transport services. Also seek measures to reduce the fear of crime.
Racial group	Seek affordable measures to enhance the availability of appropriately understandable information. Also seek measures to reduce the fear of crime.
Religion or belief	Seek affordable measures to enhance public transport services. Also seek measures to reduce the fear of crime.
Sexual orientation	Seek measures to reduce the fear of crime.
Location/ Urban / Rural	Seek affordable measures to enhance public transport services, including community based services.
Deprivation	Seek measures to make public transport more affordable and facilitate safe walking/cycling

9. Before you finalise to your policy, who are you consulting with or planning to consult with?

C:\Documents and Settings\eejoja\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\P85CCQEG\LTP3 EIA Scoping Report.doc

5

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

Think about:	There have been two stages of
• Who are you consulting with as part of the development process.	consultation, once prior to the draft being written and once to consult on the draft.
• Can you monitor your consultees to assess if all groups are being reached.	Consultation has included:- Councillors/Members/MPs Parish Councils
• Is it one particular Equality and Diversity strand of customer (i.e. disabled people) that your amendments need to focus on	General Public Equality & Diversity Groups Community Panel Senior Citizens Forum
• Do you need to involve partner agencies/ staff members / national organisations in this consultation exercise?	Young Peoples Forums Disability Forum Local Transport Operators
• What is your time scale?	Local businesses / organisations / groups
• Do you need to speak to the Council's Consultation, Research & Information Manager? (Extension 80132)	Chamber of Commerce Councils departments including the Equality & Diversity Team / Communications team / Planning

10. What format is your consultation taking / going to take?

The council needs to take a co-ordinated approach to consulting with the community , therefore please liaise with your PEG reps / CALM Group in ACC / and recorded your consultation on the Consultation Register? Think about • Have you already got a group you participate with (for example a bus users group that is representative of the identified groups you wish to consult with) • Have you discussed with your PEG members whether a joint approach could be made? • Have you identified any overlap with other service areas /partnerships where joint consultation could take place • Are you aware of the council's consultation strategy and support available through policy? (for example community panel)	Consultation has taken place via a number a methods most often choosing the most appropriate method for the group, determined by the representatives of those groups (for example, emails were sent to the Disability Forum as this would enable members to open the documents in a format to suit them) Consultation methods as follows:- • Emails • Letters • Website • Press releases/advertisements • Meetings (either attendance at existing groups meetings or arrangement of specific meetings) • Surveys As mentioned previously, two consultations have taken place, an initial consultation and a further consultation on the draft LTP document.

Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

• Have you planned that it may take more than one consultation exercise to get the information you are after?	

11. How are you planning to give feedback to the people who have been consulted?

Think about • Letting the consultees aware of where the documentation will be published • Asking the consultees if they would be willing to be "critical friends" in the future	Attending Forums Website Emails to representatives of groups for dissemination

12. How are you going to monitor the equality impact of this policy or function on customers in the future?

Think about • Monitoring forms • User information • Output information • Local / national research • Benchmarking information • Complaints/comments/compliments • Informal feedback • User groups	To be discussed with Equality & Diversity Team Surveys Public Transport patronage data Using complaints/comments data Maintaining dialogue with local user groups

13. What do you anticipate the longer term equalities outcomes will be as a result of this EIA?

This EIA will inform the development of LTP3 to ensure that the transport policies contained in LTP3 address anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. The EIA process will also help inform the LTP3 accessibility strategy.

Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment Completion Sheet

To be completed at the end of:

Step 5 **– for new and emerging policies**

Name of Lead Officer……………………………………………………..

Portfolio…………………………………………………………………..

Name of Policy / Function

…………………………………………………………………………….

The Equality Impact Assessment for the above has been completed to the end of Step 5

Date approved at PEG

End of Step 5

Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL