



Equality Impact Assessment

Subject: Elland / Brighouse Bus Network Review

Date: 28 March 2014

Equality Impact Assessment

What is the organisation strategy or policy being assessed? Elland Brighouse Bus Network Review	Department: Bus Services	Date: 28 March 2014
---	------------------------------------	-------------------------------

1. Responsibility and Ownership

Service Area: Bus Services
Lead Officer: Neale Wallace, Assistant Director Transport Services
Members of the assessment team: Clare Davies, Bus Consultation Team Leader
Any others involved in the assessment (peer review / external challenge):

2. Terms of Reference

Briefly describe the aims of the strategy or policy you are assessing:

A reduction in central government funding to local government has resulted in Metro seeking to decrease expenditure on tendered bus services by 25% across West Yorkshire. Metro has already reviewed tendered bus services in the Bradford, North and South Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Districts to assess where savings can be made.

Extensive stakeholder and public consultations including an information session was carried out regarding the proposed Elland / Brighouse bus network changes during October and November 2013.

This Equality Impact Assessment covers the tendered services which Metro has responsibility for and none of the commercial proposed changes.

The review has also involved re-allocating resources (to ensure maximum benefit from the reduced tendered budget) and simplifying networks to make them easier for passengers to understand.

The review also sought to address changing West Yorkshire travel demands and the aims of the third local Transport Plan.

The Consultation Process

Metro endeavoured to make the consultation as inclusive as possible. A range of Stakeholders were invited to participate including; all Calderdale and Kirklees Councillors, Passenger Consultative Committee (PCC) Members, Town and Parish Councils in affected area, Calderdale and Kirklees Disability Liaison Group.

The consultation was advertised in the following ways:

- Information flyers sent to all operators of affected bus services for passengers to pick up.
- Posters displayed on all affected bus services.
- Posters prominently displayed at all affected bus stations (Brighouse and Huddersfield Bus Stations).
- Posters sent to all community buildings in Elland and Brighouse.
- Posters put up at affected bus shelters.
- Press releases – a number of articles were printed in the Huddersfield Examiner, Bradford Telegraph and Argus, Halifax - Evening Courier, Yorkshire Evening Post
- Metro Website

Public Consultation days

Passenger information sessions were held on the following days:-

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 15 October	10:30 – 12:30	Rastrick Library
Thursday 17 October	10:00 – 15:00	Elland Co-Op, Huddersfield Road
Wednesday 23 October	13:30 – 18:00	Brighouse Bus Station
Friday 25 October	11:00 – 15:00	Asda Brackenhall, Longhill Road

As a result of the review some areas will end up with a reduced bus service frequency and loss of service all day or at certain times of the day. However, reliability of services should be significantly improved.

Who is intended to benefit from the outcomes of the strategy or policy?

The aim of the review was to make best use of the available resources and make the bus network in the Elland and Brighouse area as sustainable as possible.

What objectives are intended to be delivered by the strategy or policy?

The review has provided an opportunity to consider a number of elements of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, which sets out a 15 year strategy for developing and managing an integrated transport system that will support economic growth, reduce carbon dependency and improve quality of life.

- Assessment of the public transport hierarchy in the Elland Brighouse area, with core commercial bus services identified and promoted.

Please list other strategies and policies and operational areas which relate to this strategy or policy:

ITA Policies
LTP 3

3. Equalities implications

Is there reason to believe that any people who share a protected characteristic could be adversely affected by this strategy or policy?

Protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Yes.

Which people sharing a protected characteristic are affected?

Bus services are used by all sectors of the community though consultation has generated most feedback from older and / or disabled people.

4. Evidence of adverse impact or unmet needs

What is the concern about adverse impact or unmet needs on the grounds of:	What evidence do you have for this?
Age	<p>Data not collected as part of the consultation but the National Travel Survey and Metro’s Tracker Survey 2013 shows that bus use is highest amongst 16-24 year olds and those aged 65+. Changes to services could impact these groups disproportionately.</p> <p>The review has sought to maintain access to a daytime bus service to address</p>

	accessibility needs
Disability	Data not collected as part of the consultation but the proportion of adults with a disability increase with age and these groups are more likely to be reliant on public transport. Disabled people may experience longer journeys however all vehicles operating tendered services will now comply with DDA legislation ahead of the 2016 deadline.
Gender reassignment	Data not collected as part of the consultation. No evidence this group will be adversely impacted.
Pregnancy and maternity	Data not collected as part of the consultation but reduced levels of service on routes may make journeys longer for pregnant women particularly on way to/from appointments.
Race	Data not collected as part of the consultation. No evidence this group will be disproportionately impacted.
Religion or belief	Data not collected as part of the consultation. No evidence this group will be disproportionately impacted.
Sex	Data not collected as part of the consultation however the National Travel Survey indicates a greater proportion of bus users are female.
Sexual orientation	Data not collected as part of the consultation. No evidence this group will be disproportionately impacted.

5. Decisions and recommendations

Following the assessment, is further action required?

Metro undertook extensive consultation to understand the impact of the proposals. A number of actions have been taken after analysing the consultation feedback – see the attached appendix.

What are your recommendations? Do you need to:

- **Take any immediate action?** No further action required.
- **Prioritise the problems identified and develop equality objectives and targets for people who share protected characteristics based on this assessment?**
Not applicable
- **Conduct to a more detailed impact assessment?**
Not applicable

List the specific actions that will be taken to address the problems you have identified:

Not applicable.

Who will do this?

Bus Services Team

Signature of lead officer:



Name of lead officer: Neale Wallace

Date: 28 March 2014