

Concessionary Passes Consultation - Equalities Impact Assessment

Applicant details

Date of assessment	10:00:20 10 Jan 2017
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Directorate	Environment

Strategy Details

Title of strategy, policy, project or service.	Concessionary Passes Consultation
Type of strategy	Changing_ update or revision
If other type of strategy	
Officers involved	Ryan Pooles (Author), Andy Shaw, Joseph Rose
What is the aim of the strategy, policy, project or service?	<p>Dorset County Council currently enhance the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) by allowing free concessionary travel before 0930 on routes where there is no other service until after 1030. It is proposed that this enhancement is ceased from April 2017.</p> <p>This change will bring Dorset's concessionary travel scheme in-line with the ENCTS. The change will also reduce the cost to the County Council of providing this enhancement.</p> <p>A further aim of these proposals is to facilitate the opening of more schools transport routes to members of the public. Dorset's school transport contracts are due for renewal in 2017. A key objective of the new contracts is to secure more open schools routes, seeking to improve rural accessibility. Schools transport routes operate before 0930 and the current concessionary travel scheme would allow free travel for pass holders. Use of concessionary passes will not encourage operators to open more routes to the public as revenue generation would be limited.</p> <p>Revenue generated by open schools routes will also serve to reduce the tender prices for these contracts. Thus, the removal of free travel before 0930 will assist in the reduction of Dorset's public and schools transportation budgets by £2.35M between 2016 and 2018.</p>

Information gathered.

What, data, information, evidence, research was used in this EqIA and how has it been used to inform the decision making process?	<p>Dorset Travel have undertaken a detailed public consultation on the proposals. The purpose of this consultation was to establish the effect on pass holders of the proposed changes. The results of this consultation have been used to inform this EqIA.</p> <p>Concessionary pass usage data from EP Morris has been used to inform the likely number of people affected along with the likely savings to be achieved.</p> <p>Travel Line South West has been used to establish exactly what public transport routes would be affected by this change.</p> <p>The Dorset Statistics website was interrogated to establish the gender split of Dorset's residents by age.</p>
What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?	<p>There are 106,779 older persons concessionary pass holders in Dorset. There are 4223 disabled pass holders, 724 of these are for blind or partially sighted individuals. Older persons and disabled pass holders will be affected by the proposals. Pass holders who are blind or partially sighted will not be affected as they receive free all day travel which is not proposed to cease.</p>

	<p>There are 31 routes that operate before 0930 with no other services before 1030. Older persons and disabled concessionary pass holders on these routes will be directly affected by the proposals.</p> <p>The overall cost of Dorset's concessionary travel scheme is around £4,000,000 per annum. This is made up predominantly by the standard ENCTS with Dorset's enhancements representing a small fraction of this cost. The proposals are estimated to save around £16,000 to £20,000 from the concessionary travel budget.</p> <p>The contribution to the wider reduction of public and schools transport budgets is unquantifiable. Dorset Travel will know how many schools transport routes are opened to the public after April 2017.</p>
What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this EqlA?	<p>A six week public consultation has been undertaken for this proposal, over 1000 responses have been received.</p> <p>The consultation took the form of an on-line survey available at dorsetforyou.com. This was supplemented by paper copies of the survey which were available at all of Dorset's libraries. An easy read version of the questionnaire was also produced and distributed via our stakeholders who are involved in the provision of services for disabled people.</p> <p>The consultation has been promoted across Dorset. A wide range of stakeholders were emailed about the proposals and the consultation - a full list of stakeholders is available on request.</p> <p>The consultation was advertised on posters in buses across Dorset. The posters were also made available to libraries; town, parish and district councils; and, an electronic version was sent to stakeholders.</p> <p>A press release was sent to local media and a social media campaign was delivered via Facebook and Twitter. Councillors Peter Finney and Colin Jamieson were interviewed for local radio stations which helped to promote the consultation.</p>
Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?	<p>No further information is required at the current stage.</p> <p>The number of open schools routes secured through the retendered contracts for passenger transport will be required for the EqlA review.</p>
How will the outcome of consultation will be fed back to those who you consulted with.	<p>A consultation response report will be written and made available on the consultation webpage. This will include an analysis of responses. The outcome of the Cabinet meeting to be held on 1 February '17 will also be included on the consultation webpage.</p> <p>If Cabinet take the decision to proceed with these proposals, Dorset Travel will undertake a wide ranging promotion of the changes to concessionary passes, ensuring all pass holders are aware of the changes in advance of implementation.</p>
Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?	
Age	
Age impact	Negative
Further details of the age impact	<p>The proposals will have a negative effect on older persons concessionary pass holders. Free travel is currently allowed before 0930 on all services that do not have another bus until after 1030. Implementation of the proposals will mean older persons concessionary pass holders will have to pay the standard fare before 0930 on these routes. Free concessionary travel will still be available after 0930 i.e. for return trips.</p> <p>The proposals may have a positive impact on younger people who are not in education. The opening of more schools routes to the general public may make public transport available in rural areas where public transport is not currently available.</p>
Age action plan	
Objective/Outcome	Ensure all concessionary pass holders are aware of the proposals and the implementation programme - if the proposals are approved by Cabinet on 1 February

	'17.
Action	Develop and implement high quality communication plan for consultation and implementation. This is to include on bus information, press releases and a social media campaign.
Lead officer	Ryan Pooles
Deadline	01 Apr 2017
Disability	
Disability	Negative
Further details of the disability impact	<p>The proposals will have a negative effect on disabled persons concessionary pass holders. Free travel is currently allowed before 0930 on all services that do not have another bus until after 1030. Implementation of the proposals will mean disabled persons concessionary pass holders will have to pay the standard fare before 0930 on these routes. Free concessionary travel will still be available after 0930 i.e. for return trips.</p> <p>Blind and partially sighted pass holders will not be affected by these proposals.</p>
Disability action plan	
Objective/Outcome	Ensure all concessionary pass holders are aware of the proposals and the implementation programme - if the proposals are approved by Cabinet on 1 February '17.
Action	Develop and implement high quality communication plan for consultation and implementation. This is to include on bus information, press releases and a social media campaign.
Lead officer	Ryan Pooles
Deadline	01 Apr 2017
Gender impact	
Gender impact	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral
Race and ethnicity	
Race and ethnicity	Neutral
Religion or belief	
Religion or belief	Neutral
Sex	
Sex	Negative
Further details of the sex impact	These proposals are likely to affect older women more than older men. there are some 17,000 more women over the age of 65 than men in the county.
Sex action plan	
Objective/Outcome	Ensure all concessionary pass holders are aware of the proposals and the implementation programme - if the proposals are approved by Cabinet on 1 February '17.

Action	Develop and implement high quality communication plan for consultation and implementation. This is to include on bus information, press releases and a social media campaign. The communication plan will ensure that women are a key target audience.
Lead officer	Ryan Pooles
Deadline	01 Apr 2017
Sexual orientation	
Sexual orientation	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups	
Other socially excluded groups	Unclear
Further details of the other socially excluded groups impact	<p>Older and disabled concessionary pass holders who are on a low income are likely to be negatively affected by these proposals. These pass holders will have to pay for pre 0930 travel where this was previously free. travel after 0930 will continue to be free i.e. return trips.</p> <p>People who are rurally isolated may be positively impacted by this proposal. The facilitation of more open schools routes could make public transport available in areas that are not currently served.</p>