

Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

2015-2018 Budget Summary Report

What budget option does this ERIA information relate to?

SfC

Reducing the supported bus service budget by £200,000 or £300,000 will reduce the level of service that can be provided. It is proposed to develop an assessment methodology, which **might** improve targeting. However, any 'efficiency saving' will be small relative to the scale of overall service reductions. The proposed reduction will have a negative impact on services which are heavily used by elderly and young people and those on low incomes, therefore disadvantaging several protected groups.

What are the main impacts of this option on rights?

Right to health - infringed by reduced access to health services

Right to Education and Learning - Infringed by reduced access to schooling, literacy, training, adult learning.

Right to Standard of Living - Infringed by reduced access to housing, community, transport

Right to Productive and Valued Activities - Infringed by reduced access to work, volunteering

Rights to Individual, Family and Social Life – Infringed by reduced access to care, friends

Right to Participation, Influence and Voice - Infringed by reduced access to community engagement

The supported service network has been developed over many years in response to identified need, it is unlikely that a new methodology will produce radical change. Therefore, a reduction in overall budget will translate into reduced services rather than better targeted services.

What are the main impacts of this option on equality?

There are a number of negative impacts, in particular relating to the protected characteristics: Age and Physical & Mental Disability.

These groups are most at risk because they have limited opportunities to access other modes of transport. Supported bus services, by their nature, tend to operate through isolated areas and do not compete with commercial services. The loss of a supported bus service will mean that some individuals have significantly fewer opportunities to travel and protected characteristic groups will be particularly affected. Without access to transport these groups will have fewer opportunities to access jobs, education and health facilities.

What are the main recommendations to address either the positive or negative impacts?

A report will be presented to Transport and Environment Committee in January 2015, seeking agreement to develop a supported bus services assessment methodology, considering four criteria and including a scoring and weighting system to reflect Council priorities. If successfully implemented, this might improve targeting of Supported Bus Services.

To be considered within the draft criterion 'Enhancing Access and Social Inclusion'

- Operational service days

- Isolation
- Car ownership
- Access for older and disabled people
- Service usage
- Social deprivation

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Sign Off (print name and position and contact details)

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Carbon Impact Assessment Template

BUDGET OPTION SfC1 Reduce Expenditure on Agency Staff.				
LEAD OFFICER Jackie Bryceland				
To record your assessment put an X in the appropriate columns below.				
COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS	IMPACTS			NOTES
	↓	↑	↔	
WASTE to landfill			X	
BUILDINGS energy usage			X	
INFRASTRUCTURE energy usage			X	
TRANSPORT fuel consumption			X	

↓ = *anticipated decrease in emissions*

↑ = *anticipated increase in emissions*

↔ = *no change anticipated*