

## WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT DESKTOP SCREENING

**This exercise is not an EIA. It is a desktop exercise designed to establish if you need to carry out a full assessment. When completing the screening please use plain English avoiding the use of acronyms or jargon. Any documents referred to should be attached to the screening form.**

Part One: basic information needed to identify the policy and prepare for screening

1.1	Directorate and Section/Unit	Environmental Services
1.2	Title or brief description of the policy being screened.	Transfer of Concessionary Travel Scheme Administration
1.3	Screening by:	Wayne Arthur
1.4	Date of screening	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
1.5	Related policies/functions:	Integrated Transport Strategy Eligibility for Companions Passes Equality and Diversity Policy
1.6	To which section of the Directorate or Corporate "business/service plan" does this relate?	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and Cycling as measured by NI175
1.7	Is this a new or existing policy?	Responsibility currently lies with District Councils

1.8	What is the policy trying to achieve?	<p>The Concessionary Travel Scheme provides free travel on local bus services for elderly and disabled residents. Entitlement is based on statutory definitions.</p> <p>The Concessionary Travel Authority has the ability to create discretionary enhancements to the national scheme. The changes introduced from April 2011 will remove powers to create discretionary enhancements from Districts Councils and pass them to County Councils. The transfer of funding will relate to the statutory elements of the scheme only.</p>
1.9	What are the planned outcomes for this policy?	<p>In creating a scheme the County Council must consider provision of discretionary enhancements</p> <p>The national scheme (ENCTS) covers the period 09:30 – 23:00 on weekdays and all day on weekends and Bank Holidays</p> <p>Current discretionary enhancements are:</p> <p>Free Travel to Companions of Disabled Pass Holders meeting additional eligibility criteria (all Districts)</p> <p>Free travel pre 09:30 on weekdays (Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills Redditch and Wychavon)</p> <p>This assessment does not include funding of Community Transport through Concessionary Travel Schemes as Districts will be able to continue to provide this funding using Well Being Powers.</p>

1.10	Who will benefit from the policy? How will they benefit?	<p>Disabled Pass Holders</p> <p>Elderly - Age based Pass Holders (Over 60 years old moving to Over 65 by April 2020).</p>
1.11	Who is formally responsible for the <b>delivery</b> of this policy? If different, who is responsible for <b>leading</b> on the delivery?	Sustainable Transport Manager delivered by Transport systems Manager as Chair of Worcestershire Concessionary Travel Partnership
1.12	What (if any) are the key priorities within this policy?	<p>Equity across all Districts within the County ensuring that no part of the County is disadvantaged in terms of transport provision compared to other parts as a result of this Scheme.</p> <p>Delivering the scheme within the financial resources made available.</p>
1.13	What (if any) previous consultation has been done on this policy? Who was consulted and when?	<p>Bus Operators in relation to previous annual schemes</p> <p>DfT national consultations in 2010 on transfer of responsibility to County Councils and 2007 prior to creation of the English National Concessions Scheme on the scope of the statutory scheme.</p>
1.14	Is equality monitoring in place for this policy?	Concessionary Journeys numbers are monitored and the numbers of passes issued by District by type are monitored.

Part Two: this is the test to see if further action is required. For the purpose of this exercise concentrate on the impact on people of differing age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

		Y	N	Details including what information you have based your decision on.
2.1	Is there any way in which the policy is directly discriminatory or in breach of the County Council's Equality and Diversity Policy? (see Annex E)		N	No
2.2	Are there any barriers to people from minority groups getting the full benefit of this policy which have not been resolved as part of the policy?	Y		Decisions to provide or reduce discretionary enhancements will impact on Disabled and Elderly pass holders.  Decision to fund discretionary enhancements from other public transport budgets will impact on all users of public transport.
2.3	Are there any other ways the policy could unintentionally deliver poorer quality outcomes for individuals because they belong to a minority group or groups?(they may belong to more than one)	Y		Decisions to reduce discretionary enhancements will impact on Elderly and Disabled residents who use public transport to access work or education and training.
2.4	Could minority groups reasonably believe they would be likely to get poorer benefits from the policy?	Y		Elderly and disabled pass holders could feel that their benefits were reduced were discretionary enhancements reduced or removed.
2.5	In what ways could this policy make a positive contribution to equality or to relations between groups?	Y		By having a universal scheme in place across the county in place of the current arrangements where benefits vary from District to District

If the answer to questions 2.1 to 2.4 is yes or "could be yes" then you **must** take action. If the issue is straightforward then remedy this **now** so the answer changes to no. If it cannot be remedied now or there are outstanding issues you must continue on to a full EIA. Where you have decided a full EIA is not required but have identified actions which must be taken then please record these below:

Specific Action	How will you know when this is completed?	Resources/cost	Person Responsible	Completion date
Determine financial implications of the discretionary enhancements	A list of costed options will be available	Within existing administration budget	W. Arthur & JMP Consulting	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Consult with District Councils on the operational and financial, issues relating to discretionary enhancements	Production of a report	Within existing administration budget	Concessionary Travel Partnership	September 2010
Consult with Bus Operators on the operational and financial, issues relating to discretionary enhancements	Production of a report	Within existing administration budget	W. Arthur & JMP Consulting	September 2010
Consult with groups representing those most impacted by any	Production of a report	Within existing administration budget	Concessionary Travel Partnership	September 2010

potential change				
Publish 2011-12 Concessionary Travel Scheme	Scheme published	Within existing administration budget	W. Arthur & JMP Consulting for endorsement by COMB	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2010