

Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment - Screening

Title of Policy:	Public Transport Subsidy (C1+C2) Removal
Service:	Place
Team:	Roads and Transportation

Will the policy have to go to Council or committee for approval	Yes
Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?	Yes
Does it relate to functions that previous involvement activities have identified as being important to particular protected groups?	Yes
Does it relate to an area where the Council has set equality outcomes?	Yes
Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?	Yes
Does it relate to a policy where there is significant potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes?	Yes

IF YES TO ANY - Move on to an Equality & Fairer Scotland Assessment

IF NO - Explain why an Equality & Fairer Scotland Assessment is not required

APPROVAL		
NAME	DESIGNATION	DATE
Juliet Hamilton	Development Services Manager	30/01/2019

NB This screening exercise is not to be treated as an assessment of impact and therefore does not need to be published. However, if you decide not to assess the impact of any policy, you will have to be able to explain your decision. To do this, you should keep a full record of how you reached your decision.

Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment - Scoping

Purpose of the proposed policy or changes to established policy
Removal of established approved subsidy for public bus services to deliver budget saving.
Which aspects of the policy are particularly relevant to each element of the Council's responsibilities in relation to the General Equality Duty and the Fairer Scotland Duty?
General Equality Duty -
➤ Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct
Not relevant for unlawful activity/conduct.
➤ Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
Not specific to a protected characteristic.
➤ Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
Not specific to a protected characteristic.
Fairer Scotland Duty -
➤ Reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage
Removal of the subsidy would almost certainly lead to removal of the bus service provision which would impact on those who have no economic alternative or where the alternative is impractical.

To which of the equality groups is the policy relevant?		
Protected Characteristic	Yes/No*	Explanation
Age	Yes	Likely impact on young people and older people. Impacting young accessing work
Disability	Yes	Likely impact on people with disabilities
Gender Reassignment	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted
Pregnancy and Maternity	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted
Race	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted
Religion and Belief	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted
Sex	Yes	Will impact on women as they often don't have access to the family car.
Sexual Orientation	No	No indication that this protected characteristic would be impacted

* Delete as required

What evidence is already available about the needs of relevant groups, and where are the gaps in evidence?

Impact on women, disabled people, economically disadvantaged. In Scotland 36% of households do not have access to a car.

Women are less likely to have access to the family car.

For young people and economically disadvantaged, the bus is the only access to work. Bus service is a lifeline for older and disabled travellers. C1/C2 Services serve residential areas that are often remote from shops etc. These services serve the areas of multiple deprivation (SMID)

Which equality groups and communities might it be helpful to involve in the development of the policy?

- Schools
- Disabled groups
- NHS – if we remove the C1/C2 then they may use this as justification to remove the H1/H2 services

Next steps

Loss of C1/C2 and H1/H2 would lead to high demand for

- Existing demand responsive travel (DRT) in Dollar and Muckhart – higher cost
- Demand for DRT in other areas in the county

Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment - Decision

Evidence findings		
<p>The proposals may have an equalities and poverty impact on older people relying on public transport and young people and adults using transport to access employment. The impact on those with socio-economic disadvantage will be greater than the impact on those without.</p>		
Details of engagement undertaken and feedback received		
<p>Detailed feedback from budget engagement exercise for 2019/20 comprising online comments/feedback and representations made at budget engagement events held as part of the overall exercise.</p>		
Decision/recommendation		
<p>Having considered the potential or actual impacts of this policy, the following decision/recommendation is made:</p>		
Tick	<p>Option 1: No major change The assessment demonstrates that the policy is robust. The evidence shows no potential for unlawful discrimination and that all opportunities have been taken to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitoring and review.</p>	
	<p>Option 2: Adjust the policy – this involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance equality or to foster good relations. It may be possible to remove or change the aspect of the policy that creates any negative or unwanted impact, or to introduce additional measures to reduce or mitigate any potential negative impact.</p>	
	<p>Option 3: Continue the policy – this means adopting or continuing with the policy, despite the potential for adverse impact. The justification should clearly set out how this decision is compatible with the Council’s obligations under the duty.</p>	
✓	<p>Option 4: Stop and remove the policy – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, consideration should be given to stopping the policy altogether. If a policy leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.</p>	
Justification for decision		
<p>The C1 and C2 are contracted until 2021 and therefore at this time we cannot remove the subsidy without being in breach of contract.</p>		
APPROVAL		
NAME	DESIGNATION	DATE
Juliet Hamilton	Development Services Manager	23/04/19