

Equality Impact and Needs Assessment Form

Section One – Screening

Name of strategy, policy or project:
Delivering the Devon LTP Accessibility Strategy
Directorate and service area:
Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate. Planning and Transportation
Name and contact details of officer completing assessment:
Strategic Implementation Officer Tel: 01392 382262
1. What is the main purpose of the strategy/policy/project (or the changes you want to make to it)? This project will be specifically seeking to take forward the staged process of accessibility planning which we began during the development of Devon's second LTP, delivering the accessibility strategy set out during the LTP and producing accessibility action plans for priority areas. An additional element will be ensuring that accessibility considerations are adequately taken into account in the land-use planning process, specifically in LDFs, development control and site-specific allocations. The general aim is to improve accessibility across the county to those destinations which have the greatest impact on people's life chances but with a specific focus on tackling the evidence-based accessibility problems in priority areas where high levels of social exclusion and poor access by public transport to key journey destinations prevail.
2. What are the main activities of the strategy/policy/project? Accessibility assessments using Accession software; giving presentations and setting up workshops with local partners and stakeholders in the priority action areas to raise the profile of accessibility planning and discuss key access issues, priorities and solutions; front-loading accessibility considerations into the LDF and land-use planning process; DCC's work in delivering accessibility improvements using the Towns, Villages and Rural Communities LTP programme and by working with local community transport associations.
3. Who is intended to benefit from the strategy/policy/project, and how? All residents of Devon should experience improved accessibility to key journey destinations (i.e. health, employment, education, food retail and leisure). Significant accessibility benefits should accrue to the most socially excluded and disadvantaged residents living in areas of poor accessibility by public transport (as defined by journey time and Accession mapping) and high levels of social exclusion (as defined by IMD data).
4. Is the strategy/policy/project consistent with the Council's equality policies?

Yes

5. Is responsibility for the strategy/policy/project shared with another department, authority or organisation? If so, what responsibility and which bodies?

Yes, Devon County Council's Transport Coordination Service is responsible for delivering accessibility improvements across Devon and delivering the transport-related actions within accessibility action plans. Devon County Council's Community Strategy Officers are responsible for raising the profile of accessibility planning locally, working with LSPs to produce and agree accessibility action plans and encouraging other partners to support and fund non-transport access improvements. Devon County Council's Planning and Transportation Group is responsible for front-loading accessibility considerations into LDFs and county development control procedures, coordinating the production of accessibility action plans in the priority action areas (including option appraisal), utilising Accession and GIS to produce local and strategic accessibility assessments and monitoring and reviewing progress in delivering the accessibility strategy

6. What impact is the strategy/policy/project likely to have on different sections of the community? You may wish to use the table below as a prompt.

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
Gender					

¹ Refer to section 3 of the EINA guidance.

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
• Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evidence suggests that women are more likely to be without access to a private car and thus our accessibility strategy should help increase the extent and frequency of sustainable travel options available. Key actions within the draft Accessibility Action Plans and the detailed Devon LTP (2006-11) accessibility chapter involved addressing the real and perceived barriers to access. This includes fear of crime, lighting, security and surveillance.		
• Men	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Ethnic Group					

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian or Asian British people 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All ethnic groups will experience improved accessibility to key journey destinations, particularly those who currently live in areas which suffer from very poor public transport access. In addition, LSPs, the key local partnerships involved in accessibility planning, have representatives of local area's ethnic groups		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black or Black British people 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese people 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gypsy or Roma People 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish People 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People of Mixed Heritage 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White People 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of other ethnic backgrounds 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As above		
Asylum Seekers and Refugees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
People with physical, sensory or learning disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>- People with disabilities are represented on LSPs in priority action areas.</p> <p>- LDF Briefing Paper on Accessibility Planning recommends that LPAs' include a requirement in their LDFs for developers to submit 'design and access statements' alongside planning applications to demonstrate how they have addressed issues such as the access of disabled people to buildings</p> <p>- Lots of the accessibility improvements in the</p>		

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
			draft action plans are based on bringing 'services to people' (e.g. ring and ride, fare cars) which will specifically improve the travel choices of those with disabilities. - Development of accessibility booklets (showing key services, timetable information, how to catch a bus etc.) are likely to be a key action within accessibility action plans		
Deaf People who use British Sign Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
People with mental health issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Lesbians, gay men and bisexual people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	By addressing issues such as fear of crime and natural surveillance and by improving transport		

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
			alternatives, the accessibility strategy will create less intimidating public spaces.		
Trans people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Age					

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people (60 +) 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Older people are one of the key priority groups of the accessibility strategy. As a result, a key element of Devon's accessibility strategy involves improving access to health services (e.g. creating greater correlation between appointment times and bus timetables). Access to health was raised by the Devon Strategic Partnership and the Torrington LSP as key issues for older people. The LTP has also set a target for Devon to achieve 100% ring and ride coverage by 2011.</p>		

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger people (17-25) and children 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Young people are one of the key priority groups of Devon's accessibility strategy. As a result, a key element of Devon's accessibility strategy involves improving access to further education opportunities by public transport. Access to further education was raised by the Devon Strategic Partnership and the Torrington LSP as key issues for young people. The LTP also set a target for Devon to achieve 100% wheels to work coverage by 2011.</p>		

	Positive impact – it could benefit ✓ (check box)	Negative impact – it could disadvantage ✓ (check box)	Reason	Are there additional factors that could contribute to the experience of isolation¹? If so, what are they?	Evidence
People of different faith groups or beliefs including non-believers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Representatives of faith groups are key partners on LSPs - the key partnerships for Devon's accessibility work		
Travellers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unlikely to have a significant impact		
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Socially excluded residents living in rural, inaccessible locations without access to a private car should benefit significantly from delivering Devon's accessibility strategy.		
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Notes:

- Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs and Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when assessing positive and negative impacts.
- The categories relating to ethnicity include those used in the 2001 census. Consideration should be given to the needs of specific communities within the broad categories such as Bangladeshi people and to the needs of other communities such as Turkish/Turkish Cypriot, Greek/Greek Cypriot and Polish that do not appear as separate categories in the census.

- An adverse impact does not necessarily require action to be taken. Actions must remain in proportion with the benefits that could be achieved and resources available to complete them. If adverse impacts are identified and actions for improvement are not proportionate, the reasons for not taking action should be detailed and open to challenge.

7. If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:		
Legal?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>(i.e. it is not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation – refer to the Council's website or your Directorate Equality Representative if guidance is needed)</i>		
Intended?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Level of impact	HIGH <input type="checkbox"/>	LOW <input type="checkbox"/>
If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.		
8. a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance? Explain how:		
b) Could you improve the strategy, project or policy's positive impact? Explain how: <i>You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section Two.</i>		
9. If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does? How?		

Please sign and date this form. Keep one copy, send a copy to your Directorate Equality Representative and publish the results on the Council's website.

Signed: Strategic Implementation Officer

Date: 13/10/06

Section Two – Full assessment

Name of strategy, policy or project:

Date:

Part A

1. Looking back at section one of the EINA, in what areas are there concerns that the strategy, policy or project could have a negative impact?

2. Summarise the likely negative impacts.

3. What previous or planned consultation or research on this topic / policy area / project has taken place / will take place with groups / individuals from different sections of the community? If there has already been consultation or research what does it indicate about negative impact of this strategy, policy or project?

Section of the Community	Summary of consultation or research carried out or planned

4. What consultation has taken place/or is planned with DCC staff/DCC staff group including staff that have, or will have, direct experience of implementing the strategy / policy / project?

5. If there are gaps in your previous or planned consultation and research, are there any experts/relevant groups that can be contacted to get further views or evidence on the issues.

YES (Please list them below and explain how you will obtain their views)

NO

6. Has the strategy / policy / project been through legal vetting for compliance?

YES

NO

Note: This will only be necessary in conditions where the strategy / policy / project is entirely driven by legislative duties **and/or** where there is doubt about the legal interpretations in relation to the outcomes / service being provided.

Part B

Complete this section when consultation and research has been carried out

7. a) As a result of this assessment and available evidence collected, including consultation, state whether there will need to be any changes made / planned to the policy, strategy or project.

b) As a result of this assessment and available evidence is it important that DCC commission specific research on this issue or carry out monitoring / data collection?

(You may wish to put this information directly onto the action plan at the end of this form)

8. Will the changes planned ensure that negative impact is:

Legal? YES NO

(not discriminatory, under anti-discriminatory legislation)

Intended? YES NO

Low impact? YES NO

9. a) Have you set up a monitoring / evaluation / review process to check the successful implementation of the strategy, project or policy?

YES NO

b) How will this monitoring / evaluation further assess the impact on different sections of the community/ ensure the strategy/ policy / project is non-discriminatory?

Details:

10. What is the final policy decision for this assessment?

11. There is a legal requirement to publish the outcome of an Equality Impact and Needs Assessment. Please outline how / where this will happen:

Please complete the action plan below, sign the EINA, retain a copy and send a copy of the full EINA, including the Action Plan, to your Directorate Equality Representative.

Signed:

Date:

Equality Impact and Needs Assessment Action Plan

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment.

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments

NOTES: