

Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group

Statement from the Passenger Transport Policy & Strategy Task & Finish Group

Background

The Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group was invited by Leicestershire County Council to be involved in the development of review of the Passenger Transport Policy & Strategy (PTPS), in particular to provide challenge and support in the development of the Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment work in relation to the policy and strategy. LECG set up a Task & Finish Group to that purpose.

Members of the LECG PTPS Task & Finish Group met twice with County Council officers involved in the development of the PTPS.

At the first meeting on 23rd May 2018 the Group explored the details of the proposals and the public consultation.

At the second meeting on 22nd August 2018, the group looked at the consultation results and the draft EHRIA.

Following the meeting on 22nd August 2018, the following statement was agreed by members of the Group:

We appreciate the pressures on the Council and the context in which these proposals have been developed and need to be considered.

The group would like to acknowledge that equalities considerations are embedded in the County Council's approach to developing the policy and strategy for future passenger transport provision and reflected in the content of the proposed PTPS.

The group has focused on the PTPS proposals with regards to subsidised bus services and the likely impact the PTPS will have on reducing the number of subsidised bus services.

We find the Council has a reasonable level of understanding about who is using subsidised bus services and the impact of the proposed PTPS on these service users, including those with no or limited access to alternative transport.

The proposed PTPS already takes the needs of elderly, disabled or isolated people into account as 'priority groups'.

Feedback from the consultation indicates these groups have been identified correctly as the groups most likely to be impacted by reduced access to subsidised bus services.

We would however note that the feedback we have seen does not appear to include many views of young people or people who identify as an ethnic minority.

The PTPS envisages putting in place alternative passenger transport services where subsidised bus services are discontinued.

The group agrees that these services should focus primarily on addressing the essential transport needs of the identified priority groups.

How that is done in practice remains to be seen, and the Group welcomes the offer to be involved in the implementation of the PTPS to ensure equalities considerations remain at the heart of putting the PTPS into practice, in particular with regards to reviewing subsidised bus services.

The Group want to thank County Council officers for their time.

LECG Task Group Members

Iris Lightfoote	The Race Equality Centre
Kazi Mashud	Equality Action, Charnwood
Mina Rodgers	Older Persons Engagement Network
Samantha Smith	Transactive
Misaki Yuki	Transactive
Carine Cardoza	LECG Co-ordinator

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