

# Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal T19 - E12 Bus Subsidies and Community Transport  
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Department Economy, Transport and Environment  
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## **Description of Service / Policy**

This relates to subsidising bus services that are not commercially viable but which are deemed to be socially important, and also the provision of community transport services for the mobility impaired and people living in isolated areas. 87% of passenger transport journeys are on bus services which are provided commercially without subsidy. In addition, Community Transport is funded by the district councils as well as the County.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

## **Description of proposed change**

Stopping Community Transport and withdrawing current, County Council funded bus subsidies. Community transport users might be required to use a wider selection of service providers depending on their needs and circumstances. There is also likely to be an impact upon community service providers, local authorities, and voluntary organisations.

Withdrawal of bus subsidies may affect choice and frequency of bus services available to users and possibly affect income for bus operators.

## **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

## **Impacts of the proposed change**

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

### **Impact**

Age Impact High  
Withdrawal of this funding could have an impact upon the mobility of older and younger people who are disproportionately dependant on subsidised public or community transport to access amenities and services.

Mitigation Precise plans have yet to be made and will be subject to more

detailed impact assessments to better understand the impact upon these groups in specific areas, and what mitigation might be possible.

Disability  
Impact

High

Withdrawal of this funding could have an impact upon the mobility of people with disabilities who are disproportionately dependant on subsidised public or community transport to access amenities and services

Mitigation

Precise plans have yet to be made and will be subject to more detailed impact assessments to better understand the impact upon these groups in specific areas, and what mitigation might be possible.

Sexual Orientation

Neutral

Race

Neutral

Religion and Belief

Neutral

Gender Reassignment

Neutral

Gender  
Impact

Low

Statistically, a larger number of women use subsidised public or community transport to access amenities than men. On this basis, these changes would have a disproportionate impact upon women.

Marriage and civil  
partnership

Neutral

Pregnancy and  
Maternity

Neutral

### **Other policy considerations**

Poverty  
Impact

High

Withdrawal of this funding could have a disproportionate impact upon poorer people who are disproportionately dependant on subsidised public or community transport to access amenities and services.

Mitigation

Precise plans have yet to be made and will be subject to more detailed impact assessments to better understand the impact upon this group in specific areas, and what mitigation might be possible.

Rurality  
Impact

High

Withdrawal of this funding could have an impact upon the mobility of people who live in rural areas, who are disproportionately dependant on subsidised public or community transport to access amenities and services.

Mitigation

Precise plans have yet to be made and will be subject to more detailed impact assessments to better understand the impact upon this group in specific areas, and what mitigation might be possible.

***Additional Information***

It should be noted that 87% of passenger transport journeys are on bus services which are provided commercially without subsidy, and that the County Council is not the sole funder of community transport services in Hampshire.