




The Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer or www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment

<u>Organisation prepared for (mark as appropriate)</u>					
<u>Version</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>Date Completed</u>	<u>07/07/2023</u>	
<u>Description of what is being impact assessed</u>					
<p>The current operator of the Taunton Park and Ride service has given notice on the contract, with effect from 8th November 2023. As the Park and Ride service is an essential part of the Taunton bus network, we need to procure a replacement service. Option One in the tender is to procure a like for like service on a 15 minute frequency Monday to Friday and a 20 minute frequency on Saturday. This assessment is looking at the scope of the contract and requirements set out within the tender specification to ensure that this option remains ‘fit for purpose’. This means continuing with no service on a Sunday and the operating hours remaining 6.45am – 7.30pm Monday – Friday and 8.25am – 6.00pm on a Saturday.</p> <p>The new tender specification for the service will also request displays on the front, back and side of the vehicle including destination displays.</p> <p>There is currently a £1 fare initiative on the Park and Ride which is funded by the government’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) scheme. The funding is available until March 2025 and therefore, there are no plans to change the fares at this stage. An impact assessment will be done at the point of any fare review and will not be assessed as part of this EIA.</p>					

Evidence

What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the [Office of National Statistics](#), [Somerset Intelligence Partnership](#), [Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis \(JSNA\)](#), Staff and/ or [area profiles](#), should be detailed here

Disability:

Just under 100,000 people in Somerset (18.8% of the population) said they had a long-term condition or disability which limited their day-to-day activities a lot or a little.

Age:

The ages of Somerset residents are:

- education or pre-education age (0-24) 25.4%
- approximate working age (25-65) 49.6%
- approximate pensionable age (65+) 24.9%

A quarter of the population were aged 65 and over.

The overall age profile of residents in Somerset is changing with an increase in elderly retired residents, particularly in West Somerset.

Race:

The demographic of Somerset consists of:

91.3% as 'White British',

4.4% as 'White Other' and,

4.3% as 'Other'

The greatest relative change since 2011 comes amongst those from black ethnic groups, with the number of residents from those groups having more than doubled from 1,013 in 2011 to 2,436 in 2021.

There are 14,544 households in Somerset comprised of residents from different ethnic groups. This represents 8.4% of all Somerset households with more than one resident and is an increase of over 5,000 households since 2011, when the proportion was 5.7%.

Public Transport Usage in Somerset:

Based on 2019-20 data, there were 5.9 million adult single passenger journeys made on public transport in Somerset (registered public bus services) of which 2.4 million journeys (43%) were made by concessionary pass holders. There are currently 94,388 Concessionary Bus Passes in circulation, of which 90,630 have been awarded on age and 3,758 on disability.

Concessionary pass holders have made 107,889 journeys on the park and ride service, between September 2022 and July 2023, which equates to a percentage of 28.54% of the total numbers of journeys.

For those cards issued in 2019-20, data shows that 9,250 (43.7%) of concessionary pass holders identified as male, 11,791 (55.7%) of concessionary pass holders identified as female, with the remaining 128 (0.6%) not being identified by gender on the database.

Sources of data used:

To inform the above information the below sites were used:

Disability - <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/health-and-disability.html>

Age - <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/somerset-census-2021.html>

Race - <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/ethnicitytest/>

<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/cyp-population.html>

Public Transport Usage in Somerset – Somerset County Council concessionary fares database,

2017 National Travel Survey <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2017>

Census 2021 – Travel to work <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/census-2021-labour-market-and-travel-to-work.html>

Journey time statistics: data tables (JTS) - GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/journey-time-statistics-data-tables-jts#journey-times-to-key-services-by-local-authority-jts04>

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

Tom Rutland - Public Health Promotion Manager – Equalities

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of working age unable to use Park & Ride to access work or events in Taunton on weekday or Saturday evenings or anytime Sunday. This will be especially relevant to shift workers. 	☒	☐	☐
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are visually impaired may struggle to view the information and destination displays if they are not formatted correctly. • People with learning disabilities may struggle to identify buses if the livery changes colour. 	☒	☐	☐

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with learning disabilities and sensory loss may struggle to understand the information regarding the new service provider and how to contact them if the marketing information is not set out in clear formats for all. 			
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People where English is not their first language may struggle to understand the information regarding any service provider changes if the information is not set out in clear formats for all. 	☒	☐	☐
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐

Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered with no impact highlighted. 	☐	☐	☐
Other, e.g. carers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with young children are more likely to have one parent who works evenings/shifts to help with childcare. Those parents would be unable to use Park & Ride to access work in Taunton on weekday or Saturday evenings or anytime Sunday. 	☒	☐	☐

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.




Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Car parking is free in Taunton car parks on Sundays and therefore there is less of a need for the park & ride service to operate.		Natasha Bates/John Perrett	Feedback from the public. Review any future changes to parking policy.	☐
Somerset Council has received Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding to deliver evening services in Taunton. Some evening public service routes have already been extended to serve both park & ride sites in the evening once the core service stops.	30/01/2023	Natasha Bates	Quarterly BSIP Reviews on success/viability of evening services.	☐

Ensure that any promotional material and information regarding the service changes are clear and available in easily understandable formats for all potential service users.	31/10/2023	Andrew Doyle	Feedback from passengers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use the Travel Trainers, who work with LD clients to encourage them to travel independently, to help deliver the information on the changes to service provision.	31/10/2023	Natasha Bates	Feedback from Travel Trainers/passengers	<input type="checkbox"/>
The tender specification will state the need to comply with the reasonable adjustment element of the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure display screens are fit for purpose and viewable to all.	21/07/2023	Natasha Bates/John Perrett	Assessed in tender responses and contract management. Feedback from passengers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The livery may change but the specification will ask for a dedicated livery, so the vehicles are easily identifiable. Any changes will be clearly communicated as part of the promotion of the service.	21/07/2023	Natasha Bates/John Perrett/Andrew Doyle	Assessed in tender responses and contract management. Feedback from passengers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				

Completed by:	Nicholas Margison
Date	07/07/2023
Signed off by:	Natasha Bates
Date	10/07/2032
Equality Lead sign off name:	Tom Rutland
Equality Lead sign off date:	11/07/2023
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	Nicholas Margison/Natasha Bates
Review date:	31/10/2023

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<u>Description of what is being impact assessed</u>						
<p>The current operator of the Taunton Park and Ride service has given notice on the contract, with effect from 8th November 2023. As the Park and Ride service is an essential part of the Taunton bus network, we need to procure a replacement service. The expectation is that the cost of providing this contract will now increase and Transporting Somerset are reviewing ways to limit the impact of any contract price increases. One of the options being explored is a reduced service frequency Monday to Friday from the current 15 minute frequency to 20 minutes, leaving the Saturday service at a 20 minute frequency. This option would also include the addition of double deck vehicles, as opposed to the current single deck, to provide additional capacity. The new tender specification for the service will also request displays on the front, back and side of the vehicle including destination displays.</p> <p>This assessment is looking at the scope of the contract and requirements set out within the tender specification to assess the impact of these and in particular the reduced frequency and change in vehicle type.</p> <p>There is currently a £1 fare initiative on the Park and Ride which is funded by the government’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) scheme. The funding is available until March 2025 and therefore, there are no plans to change the fares at this stage. An impact assessment will be done at the point of any fare review and will not be assessed as part of this EIA.</p>						

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The ages of Somerset residents are:

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There are 14,544 households in Somerset comprised of residents from different ethnic groups. This represents 8.4% of all Somerset households with more than one resident and is an increase of over 5,000 households since 2011, when the proportion was 5.7%.

Gender:

51.1% of the population of Somerset are female and 48.9% are male. (Projected estimates through Somerset Intelligence.org.uk based on 2021 census data)

Public Transport Usage in Somerset:

Based on 2019-20 data, there were 5.9 million adult single passenger journeys made on public transport in Somerset (registered public bus services) of which 2.4 million journeys (43%) were made by concessionary pass holders. There are currently 94,388 Concessionary Bus Passes in circulation, of which 90,630 have been awarded on age and 3,758 on disability.

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Race - <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/ethnicitytest/>

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Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Older people with mobility issues may not be able to access the upper floor of the double decker vehicle and therefore may not be able to travel at times if the lower deck is full.	☒	☐	☐

Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with learning disabilities and sensory loss may struggle to understand the timing changes and information regarding the adjustments if the information is not set out in clear formats for all. • People with learning disabilities may struggle to identify buses if the livery changes colour. • People with physical disabilities may struggle to use the double deck buses if they are not low floor to the curb. • People with physical disabilities may not be able to access the upper floor and therefore may not be able to travel at times if the lower deck is full. • People who are visually impaired may struggle to view the information and destination displays if they are not provided correctly. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People where English is not their first language may struggle to understand the timing changes and information regarding the adjustments if the information is not set out in clear formats for all. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are more likely to use the bus network and parents with young children may struggle to use the buses if there is not enough space for pushchairs/buggies, especially at peak times. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, e.g. carers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered with no impact highlighted. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Ensure that any promotion material and information regarding the service changes are clear and available in easily understandable formats for all potential service users.	31/10/2023	Andrew Doyle	Feedback from passengers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use the Travel Trainers, who work with LD clients to encourage them to travel independently, to help deliver the information on the changes to service users.	31/10/2023	Natasha Bates	Feedback from Travel Trainers	<input type="checkbox"/>
All the vehicles on the service will be fully compliant with the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) and therefore fully accessible to those with physical disabilities.	08/11/2023	Ian Bell	Feedback from passengers and contract management	<input type="checkbox"/>
The livery may change but the specification will ask for a dedicated livery, so the vehicles are easily identifiable. Any changes will be clearly communicated as part of the promotion of the service.	21/07/2023	Natasha Bates/ John Perrett/ Andrew Doyle	Assessed in tender responses and contract management.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality questions within the tender specification will ask the suppliers for their policy on managing capacity issues with wheelchair users and pushchairs.	21/07/2023	Natasha Bates/ John Perrett	Assessed in tender responses and contract management.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vehicles will be fitted with accessible seats clearly marked for those who may need this. There will also be standing room on the lower deck for able passengers who could give up their seat for someone who needed a seat.	09/11/2023		Feedback from passengers and contract management.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The tender specification will state the need to comply with the reasonable adjustment element of the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure display screens are fit for purpose and viewable to all.	21/07/2023		Assessed in tender responses and contract management.	<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

There may be a negative impact that remains for those that cannot access the upper deck if the lower deck is full when the buses are busy, especially at peak times, and may have to wait 20 minutes for the next service bus. This will be monitored with the expectation that the driver will try to move passengers (where appropriate) to the upper deck if this situation arises.

Completed by:	Nicholas Margison
Date	07/07/2023
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Equality Lead sign off name:	Tom Rutland
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To be reviewed by: (officer name)	Nicholas Margison/Natasha Bates
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