



Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
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Title:	Waterside Transport Strategy and Action Plan
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Transport Policy and Planning
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The County Council has worked with New Forest District Council, the National Park Authority and local residents, stakeholders and their representatives to develop a Transport Strategy and Action Plan for the Waterside area of New Forest.
New/changed service/policy/project	The strategy and action plan provide a framework for the planning of future transport infrastructure within the Waterside area, both by the County Council and by other transport providers to support the existing communities and planned growth.

Engagement
<p>A public consultation on the draft Waterside Transport Strategy and potential scheme elements was undertaken during summer 2021. A series of Member briefings was held. In addition, online live Q&A sessions for the public were held. The consultation was advertised online, via social media, online press, and posters in local areas. Information packs were provided, and public opinions were sought via an online response form on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Draft Waterside Transport Strategy; · A326 Improvements (between Totton and Applemore); · Waterside Passenger Rail; · Totton Level Crossing Improvements; and · Waterside Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). <p>Almost 1000 responses were received from the public and stakeholders. These included responses from parish and town councils, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and other key stakeholders. There was broad support for the proposals set out in the draft strategy. Key findings to note were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Respondents would like to see the special qualities of the New Forest National Park being protected as the Strategy is developed. This is reflected throughout the survey, with a high level of respondents expressing views that road and other infrastructure improvements should enhance the natural environment. The A326 road scheme is being developed with a view to designing it so as to create a biodiversity uplift but also to include complementary schemes that lock in the traffic reduction benefits on some country lanes through their designation as "green lanes" or similar type measures.

- The principle of re-introducing passenger rail services was well supported. However, the more recent public engagement undertaken by Network Rail has just taken place and when the analysis is available it will provide a more detailed and thorough overview of public views on this proposal.
- Improving traffic flow on the A326 was supported but not at any cost. There was a clear view that enhancement to the road should also reduce the severance caused by the road for those wanting to cross it by non-car modes, with support falling if these issues were not addressed. This response is now influencing the detailed design of the A326 road improvements under development.
- Downtime at the Totton Level Crossing was considered by some respondents as a concern.
- Respondents supported the walking and cycling routes and zones set out in the LCWIP plans, with respondents stating they would walk or cycle more often if they were delivered.

New Forest District Council (NFDC) provided a response to the consultation that “support(s) the work being done to identify improvements the transport network in Totton and the Waterside” and commits to “continue to work with Hampshire County Council to deliver a Waterside Strategy”.

The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) also provided a response that highlighted the importance of the environmental designation in the area and the need to carefully design any transport improvements.

The consultation findings have been incorporated into the final strategy and will continue to influence how schemes in the action plan are developed and brought forward.

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	The Waterside Transport Strategy and Action Plan considers outline policies and proposals and at this stage has no direct impacts on people with protected characteristics. As such the strategy and action plan is considered to have a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics. As the proposals are further developed, they will be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessments.

Mitigation	
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Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Mitigation	

Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Mitigation	

Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>The Waterside Transport Strategy and Action Plan considers outline policies and proposals and at this stage has no direct impacts on people with protected characteristics. As such the strategy and action plan is considered to have a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics. As the proposals are further developed, they will be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessments.</p>
Mitigation	

Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Mitigation	

Religion or Belief

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Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Sex

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Impact on staff	Neutral
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Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

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Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
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Geographical Impact:New Forest

Equality Statement

Additional information:

None

Overview Statement:

Assessment to show that due regard has been given and that there is no requirement for a full EIA:

EIA reference number: 00308

Date of production of EIA for publication: 06/12/2022