



WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Please read the brief guidance which provides essential information for anyone who is unfamiliar with the County Council Equality Impact Assessment process.

Background information:

Name:	Tom Delaney
Job Title:	Transportation Package Manager
Service area:	Transport Programming & Commissioning
Directorate:	E&I
Telephone:	01905 846419
Email address:	TDelaney@worcestershire.gov.uk
Date assessment commenced:	13/04/2015
Date assessment completed:	19/06/2015

Function, strategy, project, policy or procedure being assessed:

Name of the function, strategy, project, policy or procedure being assessed:	Worcestershire Parkway Station
Is this a new or an amended policy?	New
Does the policy form part of a wider programme which has already been screened for equality relevance?	No

Stage 1 - Please summarise the main objectives, aims and intended outcomes of this policy

Aims/Objectives:	<p>The aim of the project is to create an out of town Rail Station which will be located at the intersection of the Cotswold railway line and the Birmingham to Bristol main railway line. It will help tackle Worcestershire's exclusion from the Cross Country network (Bristol-Birmingham-North West/North East).</p> <p>Present access to national trains is only available via connections at Birmingham New Street and Cheltenham Spa. The current situation has led to increased car use for strategic journeys and overcrowded railway stations within Worcestershire.</p> <p>The project will help to increase the rail share in strategic journeys and thus follow the core principles within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local policy agendas. Planning and design are conducted in accordance with Accessible Train Station Design for Disabled People: A Code of Practice, Ver.3</p>
------------------	--



<p>Intended outcomes:</p>	<p>Worcestershire is currently not directly served by national (intercity) rail. This is a major constraint for economic growth in Worcestershire, as rail users are required to travel via Birmingham or Cheltenham Spa to access these services.</p> <p>The scheme would allow access many long distance cross country trains currently bypassing Worcester, thereby enhancing new housing developments, commercial developments, employment and economic improvements.</p> <p>The new Railway Station will help to reduce crowding on existing stations in Worcestershire by introducing a more frequent departing service and by providing an increased parking provision. The project will ensure that travelling will be more convenient for disabled people; with facilities in line with current best practice and design standards.</p>
<p>Please summarise how these outcomes will be achieved?</p>	<p>A new station is proposed on a site south east of Worcester on the B4084 Pershore road where main railway tracks Birmingham – Bristol and Cotswold railway line cross, with car parking for 500 cars.</p> <p>A transport strategy was prepared to accompany the application which amongst other things seeks to promote public transport. Three bus routes are planned to provide connection between the station and nearby towns: 166 – Worcester to Stratford Upon Avon; 550 and 551 – Worcester to Pershore and Evesham. Bus stops and drop off areas will be located as close as practicable to the building. All buses will be suitable for disabled travelers and the short distance to the station building will aid persons of reduced mobility. Furthermore, parking for disabled people is in the close vicinity of the station entrance</p> <p>The station incorporates access gates, ticket offices, lifts, toilets, station furniture, boarding aids. Ticket sales counters and machines are to be located on an obstacle-free route and their height is to be adjusted to wheelchair users. Clear signage and obstacle-free routes suitable for wheelchairs will be provided. A disabled access lift will be available to each station platform.</p> <p>Help points are to be provided for travelers, especially visually and sight impaired, to reassure them and make the journey less stressful. Clear announcements of departures, including time, platform, and destination and calling points are to help blind and partially sighted passengers find their train.</p> <p>Weather-protected Platform waiting areas, placed in areas where they will not be an obstruction to blind or partially-sighted, will provide ergonomic seats to make waiting comfortable especially for people who are unable to stand for too long.</p>



Where an existing policy is to be amended please summarise principle differences between the existing and proposed policies?	N/A

Stage 2 - Information gathering/consultation

Please give details of data and research which you will use when carrying out this assessment:	Feedback from the public consultation exercises, free text service and media responses. Consultation responses as part of the planning application process from statutory consultees and the public.
Please give details of any consultation findings you will use when carrying out this assessment:	The access arrangements have been subject to extensive consultation with WCC Highways, PROW officers, West Mercia crime reduction officers and WCC cycling officers. This has included meeting highways officers from WDC to discuss highway arrangements, traffic impacts and site usage As part of the planning application both the Health and Safety Executive and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue were both consulted and were content with the proposals.
Do you consider these sources to be sufficient?	Yes
If this data is insufficient, please give details of further research/consultation you will carry out:	
Please summarise relevant findings from your research/consultation:	There is no negative influence on the Protected Characteristics. The possible communication problems related to disabled users have been mitigated by providing the station with appropriate facilities including dedicated parking for the disabled.



Stage 3 - Assessing the equality impact of the policy

Based on your findings, please indicate using the table below whether the policy could have an adverse, neutral or positive impact for any of the protected groups:

Protected characteristic	Adverse	Positive	Neutral
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please provide details of all positive and adverse impact you have identified:	Age: Improved transport links, better access to major cities. Disability: As above, plus structures within the station to accelerate access as required for disabled people.
Where possible please include numbers likely to be affected:	Not available
Where potential adverse impact has been identified, can continuation of the proposed policy be justified?	Choose an item. If yes, please explain your reasons:
Do you consider that this policy will contribute to the achievement of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty ?	Please indicate which of these aims is achieved through this policy: 1, 2, 3 Please explain how the policy contributes to achievement of any aims you have selected: See Stage 3
<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty has the following three aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. 2. To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant Protected Characteristic and persons who do not share it. 3. To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant Protected Characteristic and persons who do not share it. 	



Stage 4 - Action planning and time frames

Please list any actions you will take to mitigate any adverse impact you have identified:

Planned action	By who	By when	How will this be monitored
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Please indicate how these actions will be taken forward as part of your team/service/directorate planning:	N/A
--	-----

Stage 5 - Monitoring & Review

How frequently will proposed action be monitored?	N/A
How frequently will intended outcomes be evaluated?	N/A
Who will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation?	N/A
How will you use the monitoring and evaluation results?	N/A

Stage 6 - Publication

Worcestershire County Council requires all assessments to be published on our website. Please send a copy of this assessment to the Corporate Equality and Diversity Team for publication.

	Signature	Date
Completing Officer:		19/06/2015
Lead Officer:		19/06/2015
Service Manager:		19/06/2015

