

Appendix 4

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

Winter Maintenance: State of Preparedness for 2011-2012 and Winter Service Plan Update



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments.

You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Section overview: this section provides an audit trail. | |
| Service/team or section: Strategic Highways Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services | |
| Lead Officer:, Strategic Highways Manager, Strategic Highways Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services Policy & Development Manager, Strategic Highways Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services | Start date: 15 October 2011 |
| Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate) Update of Winter Service Plan Each year Durham County Council reviews the winter maintenance service plan to ensure that it reflects both the operational requirements and resources of the service area; the needs of residents, visitors and businesses and is also aligned to the plans of neighbouring Authorities. Given the importance of this service as it impacts on the day to day activity and quality of life of those living, working and running services and businesses in the County it is vitally important that the service is reviewed to ensure that it reflects the most up to date position prior to commencement of service delivery in the winter months. This review considers and the revised plan incorporates any operational changes which have taken place during the last year within those services involved in this operation and also encompasses changes in legislation and practice. This review has also been heavily influenced by the severe weather events of the past three winters; the Scrutiny review undertaken by DCC and a number of reports which have been produced by Central Government resulting in the publication of a revised code of practice for highways entitled 'Well Maintained Highways'. | |
| Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) – All highway users including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commuters• Public Transport Companies• Emergency Services• Schools (pupils, teachers and parents/carers) | |

- Essential public sector workers
- All public services eg. Refuse collection
- Adjacent local authorities
- Town and Parish Councils

Is a copy of the subject attached? No

If not, where could it be viewed? Strategic Highways Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services

Initial screening

Improvements have been made to the winter service since winter 2010/11. These include:

- An approach to regional communications agreed with 12 NE Authorities.
- Current salt stocks of 46,000 tonnes (increase of 6000 tonnes)
- Improved monitoring regime of salt stocks Regional monitoring and cooperation - mutual aid.
- 51 confirmed contractor/farmers on board - increase of 11. Snow routes developed for front line vehicles in relation to the core network. These include links to Industrial Estates, strategic housing estate routes (for refuse collection) and schools. Contractor's snow routes also allocated where possible - some plough only some plough and treat.
- Refuse routes - allocated 8 tractor ploughs/shovels from existing farmer/contractor schedule and up to a further 9 from new intake
- Salt bins - 2000 currently - criteria amended to reflect community use and for improved access to footways
- Improved ability to refill salt bins
- 11 Town and Parish Councils in partnership (increase of 3) Extension of volunteering capacity (East Durham Trust)

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|------------|---|-----|---|----------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Gender | Y | Disability | Y | Age | Y | Race/ethnicity | Y | Religion or belief | Y | Sexual orientation | Y |
|--------|---|------------|---|-----|---|----------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|

How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?

Reminder of our legal duties:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone's disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people
- Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making

The winter service plan affects all communities in the county so potentially impacts across all protected characteristics. Improving services will potentially support more people to travel safely in order to access a range of activities including employment, education, health appointments, caring responsibilities and social opportunities.

In addition to the general impact of better access to services, improved treatment of roads and pathways could have a positive impact for particular groups for example:

- women who are more likely to be primary carers and rely on public transport or access local services in relation to their care responsibilities, also access to health appointments in relation to pregnancy and maternity
- men may be more likely to work longer hours and travel by private car, also the increase in contractors and farmers is likely to provide increased opportunities for male employment
- there is no direct evidence of particular benefit for transgender people though improved travelling would support access to health and medical appointments for some
- disabled people who may feel more vulnerable or less able to travel during periods of bad weather, equally the improvements may benefit those who rely on care
- older people again may benefit from improved access for carers, many older people feel isolated or rely on others for help in shopping, socialising etc so improvements would support general health and wellbeing as well as access to health care
- younger people are more likely to rely on public transport to access education or employment, younger children are also more likely to walk to local schools so improvements will support safety
- whilst there is no evidence that improvements will specifically benefit people on the grounds of race, religion or belief or sexual orientation there may be positive impacts on those who travel distances for socialising or worship, also those living on traveller sites are often on the outskirts of towns so improved road clearance would provide safer access to Council services.

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Consultation has taken place with many stakeholders including bus companies, members, the Emergency Services, Adults, Wellbeing and Health. DCC officers have also attended Disability Partnership meetings to discuss issues faced and to consider

suggested improvements. Improvements to the service have taken account of all feedback received. Improved communication channels will ensure awareness is raised of these improvements to maximise impact.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes/No **Date: 20 October 2011**

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

| | Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups? | Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered. | What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan) |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| Gender | | | |
| Age | | | |
| Disability | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | |
| Religion or belief | | | |
| Sexual Orientation | | | |

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

The winter service has a direct impact on all residents, workers and visitors to County Durham. It is essential that priority roads and footpaths (with areas of high footfall and where vulnerable people live) are cleared. We aim to provide an efficient, effective winter service, which allows the safe movement of traffic throughout the County and which keeps delays to a minimum on the treated network. Durham County Council are continuing to work in partnership with Parish and Town Councils, AAPs and volunteer groups to clear footways and improve the service.

| Action to be taken | Officer responsible | Target Date | In which plan will this action appear |
|---|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Continue to work with partners, Town & parish Councils to minimise impact | Policy & Development Manager, Strategic Highways | Ongoing | Winter Service Plan |
| When will this assessment be reviewed? | Date: March 2012 | | |
| Are there any additional assessments that need to be | | | |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| undertaken in relation to this assessment? | |
| Lead officer - sign off: Strategic Highways manager, Technical Services, Neighbourhood Service | Date: 24 Oct 2011 |
| Service equality representative - sign off: Policy Performance and Communications Manager | Date: 24 Oct 2011 |

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

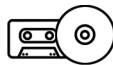
العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese) اردو (Urdu)
 polski (Polish) ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) Español (Spanish)
 বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)
 Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)

ns.planningandpolicy@durham.gov.uk

Tel 0191 383 3468



Braille



Audio



Large Print

Saul Wicks