

Midlothian Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



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Section A: Introduction

1. Title of policy, procedure or function being assessed

Hop on Hop off bus

2. Divisions/organisations/groups involved in doing this Equality Impact Assessment

Head of Service Commercial Operations

3. Date started: 27/01/2016 Date completed: 27/01/2016

Section B: Information

4. Please describe the Policy, Procedure or Function you are impact assessing

The intention is to provide a new bus service linked to the Borders rail which will allow visitors to travel to the various tourist destinations across Midlothian.
This service will operate seven days a week from 4 April 2016 to 9 October 2016.

5. What information and consultation data do you have to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

There is currently a lack of suitable public transport to link the new rail stations with the various tourist attractions around Midlothian.
As a result of discussions with various partner organizations e.g. Scotrail, tourist organizations, and tourist destinations there was a considered view that the provision of this new service would encourage visitors to travel on the train from Newtongrange and take in more than one attraction thereby increasing visitor numbers.

6. Do you need more information or more consultation/engagement data?

- Do you need anything more:
 - i. to do this Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

- ii. to monitor or assess, in future, the impact of the policy/procedure or function you are EQIAing on people with different equalities characteristics
 - Lack of data is not a sufficient reason to conclude there is no impact. It is insufficient to state that a policy will affect everyone equally without having considered the different barriers some people may encounter.
- No additional information is required to allow Council to make a decision.

Section C: Assessment

Midlothian Council equality impact assesses on **all** of the characteristics in the box below, so you should consider all of these in your assessment. If you want you can consider other groups as well.

Race (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality);

Disability (e.g. physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, mental health conditions or long-term illnesses)

Gender (male/female);

Age (all ages)

Sexual Orientation (gay man, gay woman/lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual/straight);

Religion or belief (including having no religion or belief)

Pregnancy and maternity (having just had a baby or being pregnant);

Gender reassignment or transgender status (a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process to change their sex)

Marriage and Civil Partnership

People experiencing poverty or at risk of poverty: (poverty may be simply defined as not having enough money to meet one's basic daily needs or to have the things that most people in the UK take for granted).

As you answer questions 7i. to 7iv. over the page:

- a) **Think about the policy, practice or function you are assessing and**
 - people with the above characteristics
 - people associated with them (e.g. a parent or carer)
 - people mistakenly assumed to have the above characteristics
- b) **Consider whether the above people are likely to have different needs, or be affected in different ways by what you are doing/proposing.** e.g.
 - People may need, or benefit from, information provided in a particular format, like large print or easyread.
 - A queuing system which relies on people standing for long periods will make it very difficult for some people to use the service.
 - Charging more for a service is likely to affect people from several of the groups in the box above, as on average they have a lower income.
 - Targeting an area of high poverty could leave people experiencing poverty outside the area even worse off in comparison

c) Consider the General Equality Duty requirements to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, victimization, harassment or other local conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the characteristics listed in box at the top of this page (except poverty)
- advance equality of opportunity between and foster good relations between people who share the characteristics in the box (except marriage and civil partnership and poverty)

7i. Note any positive impacts on the above equalities groups

This will be a registered service and will require to meet necessary legislative requirements. The bus will be low floor and have storage space for buggies. This will ensure suitable access/egress for the infirm and mothers with children/buggies. There is a specific requirement to have space for a minimum of one wheelchair user.

7ii. Note any negative impacts on equalities groups

There are currently no identified negative impacts. However, the potential number of users for this service is largely unknown. The operator is required to keep and provide detailed information on the number of service users. At the end of the contract period cognizance will be taken on what any future contract requirements would be in terms of ensuring suitable vehicles are provided for all users.

7iii. How significant would this negative impact be, and what kind of numbers would be affected?

None identified at this stage.

7iv. Note any opportunities for making a positive impact on equalities groups.

The provision of a minimum of one wheelchair space can be viewed as positive. Similarly the provision of a low floor bus will assist users in the protected categories.

Section D: Actions and Outcomes

8. Note any actions you will be taking as a result of this equality impact assessment:

Think about what you can do to:

- minimise or remove any negative impacts, and
- maximise the opportunities for positive impacts

Monitor users and reflect this in any future arrangements.

9. Please note any actions you have already taken as a result of this assessment here.

Ensure the end of contract user statistics are considered appropriately.

10. How will you track/monitor that the actions you mentioned in 8 have been achieved?

e.g. by adding them to a work plan, service plan etc.

The Borders rail blue print group and the internal Midlothian Council rail group will seek regular feedback on the service and how it is operating together with future proposals to retain and enhance the service.

11. If you have decided not to take any action please note why this is, and any justification, here.

A significant negative impact, even if it affects only a small number of people, should be addressed.

N/A

Is a more detailed assessment recommended?

No