

Budget Savings Proposals Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Section 1: General Information

1a) Name of the savings proposal

Pupil Transport Efficiency Review

1b) Service area

Children, schools and Families - Resources

1c) Service Head

Kate Bingham, Acting Service Head Resources, Children, Schools and Families

1d) Name and role of the officer/s completing the EQIA

Sarah Barr – Strategy and Partnerships Officer

Ahea Hannan – Strategy and Partnerships Officer

Section 2: Information about changes to services

2a) In brief please explain the savings proposals and the reasons for this change

The Council is required to provide home-to-school transport for pupils with a statement of special educational needs who are unable to travel independently. The Council also provides transport to primary school pupils who cannot be provided with a school place within 2 miles of home because of a shortage of places. The service is currently provided to 547 pupils with Special

Educational Needs or disability and 250 pupils as a result of school places outside reasonable travel distance.

Benchmarking information shows that the Council spends an average of £122 per head of pupil population on home-to-school/college transport. This is higher than the London average of £109. Reducing our expenditure to the London average would save approximately £500K per year. This proposal aims to reduce the costs of pupil transport provision through a combination of efficiency savings and reduced demand. Demand will be reduced by exploring alternative means of travel to school for some pupils, including through our very successful independent travel training scheme and a review of entitlement criteria to ensure resources are targeted appropriately.

There is ongoing capital investment to increase the number of primary school places across the borough, which will reduce the need for transport for this group of pupils.

Work with the Communities, Localities and Culture Directorate's transport provision service will ensure operating and procurement efficiencies are fully exploited. We are also collaborating with other London Boroughs to reduce the costs of transport provision, through East London Solutions.

2b) What are the equality implications of your proposal?

The test of relevance highlighted the potential negative impact on certain groups of pupils as a result of this savings proposal. If there are changes to the entitlement criteria, the number of children and young people eligible for the service will be reduced – the service will be targeted at pupils with a specific SEN or disability. As more details of any changes to eligibility criteria are confirmed, further equality impact analyses will need to be done.

Section 3: Equality Impact Assessment

With reference to the analysis above, for each of the equality strands in the table below please record and evidence your conclusions around equality impact in relation to the savings proposal.

<p>Race</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on different racial groups.</i></p>	<p>No negative impact anticipated.</p>
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<p>Disability</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on different disability groups</i></p>	<p>The savings proposal has a potential impact on some pupils who currently use the service who may be reassessed as suitable for alternative forms of support with travel between school and home.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion is currently under review with a view to ensuring that only the most disadvantaged pupils receive the service, whilst continuing to work with children and young people who could potentially travel independently, through support and training by the Independent Travel Team in CSF. The process of reviewing specific criteria will take into account any potential impact on equality for disabled children, using evidence available.</p>
<p>Gender</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on different gender groups (inc Trans) groups</i></p>	<p>Feedback to the SEN team (who determine eligibility for this service) has suggested that some parents of Bangladeshi girls in particular feel they are more vulnerable if travelling independently, given their additional needs related to their disability. Currently, the SEN team and the independent travel advisers mitigate this concern through work with these parents to reassure them as well as working with the children and young people, teaching them how to stay safe, safe places to visit and road safety.</p> <p>This work will need to continue to ensure that girls, particularly where their parents are concerned about their vulnerability and safety, are able to travel independently and safely, just as their male peers are being encouraged to do.</p>

<p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on members of the LGB community</i></p>	<p>No negative impact anticipated.</p>
<p>Religion and Belief</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on different religious and faith groups</i></p>	<p>No negative impact anticipated.</p>

<p>Age</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy on different age groups using the prompts above</i></p>	<p>This is a service for children and young people, any changes to the service may therefore negatively impact on children and young people, in terms of their ability to access education.</p>
<p>Socio-economic</p> <p><i>Identify the effect of the policy in relation to socio-economic inequalities</i></p>	<p>No negative impact anticipated.</p>

<p>Other</p> <p><i>Identify if there are groups, other than those already considered, that may be adversely affected by the policy?</i></p>	<p>The savings proposals may also have a negative impact on the parents or carers of children who do not meet the threshold if home-to-school transport is no longer provided. This could put extra pressure on carers and there may also be financial implications. These will have to be looked at should the proposal go ahead.</p>
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<p>Staff</p> <p><i>Identify if there are any staff groups, that may be adversely affected by the policy?</i></p>	<p>No impacts on staff have yet been identified. However, whilst it is not anticipated that this proposal will have any implications for CSF staff (in the SEN team or Independent Travel Team) there may be an impact for staff in the CLC Transport Team who deliver this transport service as a result of reduced demand for transport services from CSF. It is not yet known what this impact on Transport Services might be. As the savings are realised, any negative impact on Transport Services staff will need to be analysed. The majority of the savings are expected to be realised through more financial efficiency, partnership working and changes to eligibility criteria.</p>
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Section 4: Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Adverse impact	Please describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate this impact
No adverse impact identified	As the eligibility criteria becomes clear, the impact will be assessed and monitored.

If an adverse impact cannot be mitigated please describe an alternative option, its costs and the equality impact.

Section 5: Future Review and Monitoring

Impact assessing the saving proposal will be on-going as the impacts are unclear at this stage.

APPENDIX A: Equality Impact Assessment Test of Relevance

TRIGGER QUESTIONS	YES / NO	IF YES PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN.....
Does the change reduce resources available to address inequality?	Yes	This service enabled access to education for SEN and disabled pupils who are not able to travel independently due to their disability. Resources allocated to this service mitigate for this adverse impact. Any reduction in resources may negatively impact on this group and there ability to access education.
CHANGES TO A SERVICE		
Does the change alter access to the service?	Yes	This proposal will maintain access to the service for those children who continue to require it, but it will build on our successful programme supporting children and young people to become independent travelers where appropriate. It is likely however that there will be changes in eligibility criteria.
Does the change involve revenue raising?	No	
Does the change alter who is eligible for the service?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not yet known who will no longer be eligible for the service. • There is a risk that those no longer eligible will have reduced access to education.
Does the change involve a reduction or removal of income transfers to service users?	No	

<p>Does the change involve a contracting out of a service currently provided in house?</p>	<p>Not yet known</p>	<p>The service is currently provided by CLC, but they are looking at collaborating with other London Boroughs to reduced the costs of provision and this could potentially involve contracting out the delivery of service.</p>
<p>CHANGES TO STAFFING</p>		
<p>Does the change involve a reduction in staff?</p>	<p>Not yet known</p>	
<p>Does the change involve a redesign of the roles of staff?</p>	<p>Not yet known</p>	