

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Bus Service Improvement Plan and Bus Service Operators Grant Funding 2025-26

Responsible Officer

Dan Bruce - GT TRA

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Growth Environment and Transport

Responsible Service

Highways & Transportation

Responsible Head of Service

Philip Lightowler - GT TRA

Responsible Director

Haroona Chughtai - GT TRA

Aims and Objectives

In January 2024, Government announced that all Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) were required to develop a revised version of their Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for 2024. KCC developed and submitted its updated BSIP in response to this requirement in June 2024.

On 17th November 2024, KCC learnt of a new indicative BSIP allocation for 2025/26 along with its allocation of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) funding for the same period. KCC has been allocated a total of £23,134,379. On 20th December, KCC received its formal offer of this funding and the associated Memorandum of Understanding which confirmed this allocation which is collectively referred to as “the Bus Grant”.

This EQIA relates to the proposed decision to accept this funding.

The Aims of this project are:

- To continue the work of BSIP undertaken to date (i.e. between 2021 and 2025)
- Working to the 2024 BSIP, deliver a programme of initiatives which firstly look to continue to protect the bus network where possible whilst building on this with other bus interventions..

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?
Yes
Is there national evidence/data that you can use?
No
Have you consulted with stakeholders?
Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
KCC's whole approach to BSIP relates back to feedback received from stakeholders in a significant public engagement exercise carried out in 2021. The 2024 BSIP (on which the use of this funding will be based) was then subject to input from stakeholders including bus operators and District Councils. The 2024 BSIP was signed off by Kent's Enhanced Partnership meeting structure.
A further group of meetings will be utilised to inform the delivery plan linked to this funding acceptance.
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
Yes
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
Acceptance of Kent's 2025/26 BSIP and BSOG allocation will result in the delivery of a number of initiatives which will sustain a number of bus services which would otherwise have been withdrawn by commercial operators and build on this with a number of positive bus interventions.
The initiatives will deliver benefits to bus users across the county. There is also potential to encourage greater use of buses from people who may have seen barriers to bus use e.g cost or reliability. With more usage of buses across Kent, it will also have the positive impact with regards to bringing down emissions.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable