

**Kent County Council
Equality Analysis/ Impact Assessment (EqIA)**

Directorate/ Service: Growth, Environment & Transport

Name of decision, policy, procedure, project or service: Expanded Fastrack Network (Civils schemes).

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer: Graham Killick

Version: 1.0 First Issue

Author: Graham Killick

Pathway of Equality Analysis: HTW Div.MT

Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment.

- **Context**

Fastrack is a highly accessible public transport route that links existing and new communities and provides a focus for all development and density.

Fastrack's speed, frequency and reliability will be radically expanded through the building-out of missing sections of segregated track and by the maximising of levels of priority across the network. The completed Fastrack network will aim to reduce car-dependency in the area, therefore achieving greater public transport modal split across Dartford and Gravesham.

- **Aims & Objectives**

The proposed Fastrack expansions will provide better integration with the central transport hub at Ebbsfleet International Station and a more direct route to Bluewater Shopping Centre, Darent Valley Hospital and facilities in Dartford and Gravesend town centres.

Certain of the proposed Fastrack expansions will also be able to encourage walking and cycling to support healthy living and focus points of convergence at local centres to encourage interaction of new and existing communities.

- **Summary of equality impact**

- o Potential Impact: Highway scheme - Low impact.

- o Adverse Impact: Low

- o Positive Impact: Medium for younger and disabled people using the expanded Fastrack full network and new / additional footway cycleway links. Medium for carer groups using public transport who will benefit from an expanded Fastrack network to support and access Clients.

Adverse Equality Impact Rating **LOW**

Attestation

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning the expanded Fastrack network and the connection to Bluewater Infrastructure from Eastern Quarry Infrastructure. I agree with risk rating and the actions to mitigate any adverse impact(s) that has / have been identified.

Head of Service

Signed: 

Name: TIM READ

Job Title: HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: 21/5/2018

Div.MT Member

Signed: 

Name: T.M. READ

Job Title: INTERIM DIRECTOR
HFT

Date: 21/5/2018

Part 1 Screening

Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect any Protected Group (listed below) less favourably (negatively) than others in Kent?

Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group?

Protected Group	Please provide a <u>brief</u> commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.			
	High negative impact EqIA	Medium negative impact Screen	Low negative impact Evidence	High/Medium/Low Positive Impact Evidence
Age				Yes – The expanded Fastrack network and infrastructure connections to Bluewater and Eastern Quarry development will facilitate a new Fastrack bus route, expanded existing routes plus provide new / additional footway & cycleway links
Disability				Yes – The expanded Fastrack network and infrastructure connections to Bluewater and Eastern Quarry development will facilitate a new Fastrack bus route, expanded existing routes plus provide new / additional footway & cycleway links
Gender	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Gender identity/ Transgender	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Race	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

Religion and Belief	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Pregnancy and Maternity	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Marriage and Civil Partnerships	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carer's Responsibilities	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	Yes – The expanded Fastrack network and infrastructure connections to Bluewater and Eastern Quarry development will facilitate a new Fastrack bus route and expanded existing routes.

Part 2

Equality Analysis /Impact Assessment

Protected groups

No groups will be directly or indirectly negatively affected by this proposal.

Information and Data used to carry out your assessment

The planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), for the Eastern Quarry development. These are the mechanisms which make the development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of the development.

Who have you involved consulted and engaged?

Land Securities (LS) and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC). Once outline design has been completed there will be an engagement exercise to share details of the design with the general public, local businesses, protected groups and other key stakeholders. Local and District Councillors will be kept updated together with regular reports to the Fastrack Advisory Board (once formed).

Analysis

The proposal will impact three of the Protected Groups, Age, Disability and Carer Responsibilities.

Without the direct link from Eastern Quarry to Bluewater the alternative route will be much longer adding at least 3 minutes to bus travel time and considerable inconvenience for pedestrian and cyclists.

Adverse Impact,

There are no adverse impacts currently identified in the delivery of this project.

The direct link from Eastern Quarry to Bluewater will utilise refurbished haulage tunnels which are less than 100m in length with no perceived impacts on Health, Safety and Welfare for tunnel users. Zero emission buses (all electric) are proposed to operate on the expanded Fastrack network with the resultant positive environmental and operational benefits.

Positive Impact:

Direct link between Bluewater (and beyond to Darent Valley Hospital and Dartford Town Centre) and Eastern Quarry development (and beyond to Ebbsfleet International Station and Gravesend Town Centre).

JUDGEMENT

- **No major change** - no potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

Internal Action Required YES/NO

There is potential for adverse impact on particular groups and we have found scope to improve the proposal.

Equality Impact Analysis/Assessment Action Plan

Protected Characteristic	Issues identified	Action to be taken	Expected outcomes	Owner	Timescale	Cost implications
<p>Access to and use of the highway network and the Bluewater highway infrastructure by all users' with disabilities and mobility problems</p>	<p>Designs to be in accordance with current guidelines and best practice</p>	<p>Ensure designs are carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), which gives guidance based on current legislation for non-motorised users (NMU) and those with disabilities and Department of Transport (DoT) Guidance on Inclusive Mobility first published 15 December 2005.</p> <p>Regular design review with the designers.</p>	<p>Compliant design with the DMRB and DoT Guidance on Inclusive Mobility.</p> <p>Accepted NMU Audit</p>	<p>Graham Killick</p>	<p>At appropriate times between 2018 to 2019 (Provisional Design period)</p>	<p>Integral to the project budget.</p>

<p>Access to and use of the highway network and the Bluewater highway infrastructure during construction for those with disabilities and mobility problems</p>	<p>The need to advise all users of the highway network and the Bluewater highway infrastructure of proposed traffic management and restrictions on use of any parts of the route during the construction phase of the project</p>	<p>NMU audits will be undertaken to ensure due consideration is given to all road users</p>	<p>Public engagement, via letter drops, websites, social media and public meetings where appropriate.</p>	<p>To ensure all users are aware of construction works/programme and any temporary access arrangements to ensure they can access and use the highway safely during the construction works.</p>	<p>Graham Killick</p>	<p>At appropriate times between 2019 to 2021 (Provisional Construction period)</p>	<p>Included within current project budget</p>
<p>Consultation on plans with protected groups identified above.</p>	<p>The need to consult with the general public and representative groups / forums</p>	<p>Consultation by KCC once the outline design is finalised to share further details of the design.</p>	<p>Users and representative groups / forums will have an acceptable understanding of</p>	<p>Users and representative groups / forums will have an acceptable understanding of</p>	<p>Graham Killick</p>	<p>At an appropriate time in 2018 or 2019</p>	<p>Included within current project budget</p>

	for the protected groups identified above	Further information will be shared via the KCC website, information leaflets and exhibitions. Regular communication will take place with representative groups / forums as the scheme develops.	the design and proposals		

Have the actions been included in your business/ service plan?

Yes / No

Appendix

Please include relevant data sets

Please forward a final signed electronic copy and Word version to the Equality Team by emailing diversityinfo@kent.gov.uk

Updated 16/04/2018

This document is available in other formats, please contact graham.killick@kent.gov.uk or telephone on 03000 419369

If the activity will be subject to a Cabinet decision, the EqIA must be submitted to committee services along with the relevant Cabinet report. Your EqIA should also be published.

The original signed hard copy and electronic copy should be kept with your team for audit purposes.

