

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Revised June 2009



(Equality target groups are those which cover the 6 equality strands: race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation and religious belief)

Part 1 Aims & implementation of the policy

This section is the title of what is being assessed, responsible officers, purpose, where it fits within the council's wider aims and how it supports the legislation to eliminate unlawful discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities. *(Please refer to the guidance for additional information)*

1.1 What is being assessed

The withdrawal of the Student Rider discretionary concessionary fares scheme.

Background:

The council has provided concessionary travel scheme for young people since the mid 1990s. Originally this comprised of the "Youth Mover Scheme" but since September 2006 this evolved into the Student Rider scheme.

Student Rider provides travel on local bus and train services on the Isle of Wight for island resident students who are in fulltime education. The scheme enables single journeys to be made at any time of the day and any day of the week by eligible students for a flat fare of £1.20 for any single journey made.

In the financial year 2009/10 approximately 1.1 million trips were made via the Student Rider Scheme. Almost all of the journeys made were on Southern Vectis buses. The council has required, through issue of a Participation Notice that Southern Vectis take part in the scheme. The council is required within the Participation Notice to advise Southern Vectis at what rate reimbursement for their participation in the scheme will be made. Southern Vectis has appealed against the published reimbursement rate and at the time of writing the total cost of the scheme in 2009/10 could be between of £485K and £1.1M dependent upon the appeal adjudication.

The provision of a travel concession scheme for young people is not mandatory upon the council, and indeed travel concessions for young people are only offered by a small minority of local authorities.

1.2 Officer(s) and section or service responsible for completing the assessment

Commissioner for secondary education

Commissioner for 14-19 (post 16)

Commissioner for 14-19

Strategic manager student services

Transport manager

Lead officer Diversity & Wellbeing

1.3 What is the main purpose or aims of the scheme

The Student Rider scheme provides reduced cost travel that enables young people who are not eligible for a term ticket to travel to and from their place of education and also enables them to access leisure and recreational opportunities.

1.4 Who is affected by the scheme? Who is it intended to benefit and how?

All Island resident students in full time education and work place training.

1.5 Has the scheme been promoted or explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly?

The scheme has been widely promoted and well known and widely used.

1.6 How does the scheme contribute to better community cohesion?

Increases young people's opportunity to take an active role in Island life.

1.7 How does the scheme fit in with the council's wider aims?

Increased use of public transport

Green Travel Plan – carbon reduction

Reducing obesity in young people by encouraging walking and cycling to school, college and work placements.

1.8 What is the relevance of the aims of the scheme to the equality target group and the council's duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity?

Available to all young people including vulnerable groups.

1.9 How is, or how will the scheme be put into practice and who is responsible for it?

Although the council has provided travel concessions for young people for a number of years, in parallel to these concessions the public transport operators themselves have also provided and continue to provide, discounted travel for young people on a commercial basis. By way of example Southern Vectis offer half price travel for any young person up to their 14th birthday, across a range of ticket types that include Freedom and Rover tickets. Offers currently available include 90 days unlimited travel for £90 for under 14s and £180 for over 14s, similar offers are also available for 7 and 30 day terms. For those students committed to the use of public transport these commercial schemes may provide better value for money for young people than the Student Rider scheme. In addition to the Student Rider scheme the council has continued to provide through its statutory obligations, term tickets for young people deemed as eligible, that enable them to travel to and from their place of education. This includes travel up to 6pm

on school days. These schemes will continue and remain the joint responsibility between the directorates of Economy and Environment and Children and Young People.

Island Line also offers discounted – half price travel for young people up to that age of 16.

If young people use the 90 day travel option for 75 days within the 90 day period the cost would equate to £1.20 per day under 14 and £2.40 for over 14's (which is the current price of the Student rider Scheme). Lead members and officers are open to discuss actions to mitigate any potential issues for disadvantaged groups. Further discussions with Southern Vectis will look to explore the possible availability of a Limited Freedom Pass, between specified times to address issues of school transport.

In addition, Members may be minded to investigate support for disadvantaged groups such as part time students who attend education fewer than 5 days per week, or up front financial support to purchase the 90 day travel pass and consideration of any other areas identified.

Part 2 Consideration of data and research

To conduct the assessment, you will need information about service users and staff that provide the service. This section is to help you identify the sort of information that will be needed to help you assess whether there may be barriers to different equality groups who access your service, policy, procedure, practice or project. *(Please refer to the guidance for additional information)*

2.1 List all examples of quantitative and qualitative data or any consultation information available that will enable the impact assessment to be undertaken

Annual data in respect of journeys made within the term of the scheme (numbers of participating students are not known as the membership cards are distributed on an adhoc basis through schools).

Annual scheme cost data.

Cabinet reports and agenda widely available on iwight.com

Full Council reports and agendas widely available on iwight.com

IW County Press

Council Press releases

Other media reports

Meeting with representatives of the IW Youth Council attended by Cllrs Pugh and Giles
20th July 2010

Wight2BHeard

Local Transport Plan (LTP)

2.2 Equalities profile of users and beneficiaries

All Island resident young people

2.3 Evidence of complaints against the scheme on the grounds of discrimination

None recorded complaints received

2.4 What does the consultation, research and/or data indicate about the negative impact of the scheme

Financial cost to the council

2.5 What does the consultation, research and/or data indicate about the positive impact on the scheme

The scheme is well used and highly valued by the young people who use it

Part 3 Assessment of impact

Now that you have looked at the purpose etc of the service, policy, procedure, practice or project (part 1) and looked at the research (part 2), this section asks you to assess the impact, positive and negative, of the service, policy, procedure, practice or project on each of the 6 strands of diversity covered in the Authority's single equality scheme.

3.1 Complete this section with the following information – relating to all of the identified groups: *(please refer to the guidance for additional information)*

	Reason, evidence, comment					
	Race	Disability	Gender	Sexual Orientation	Age	Religious Belief
Barriers, negative impact					X	
Neutral impact						
Positive impact						

Were the scheme to be removed there are alternative discounted travel opportunities available to young people as set out in 1.9 which can be promoted by the council in conjunction with the operators.

Further discussions with Southern Vectis will look to explore the possible availability of a Limited Freedom Pass, between specified times to address issues of school transport.

In addition, Members may be minded to investigate support for disadvantaged groups such as part time students who attend education fewer than 5 days per week, or up front financial support to purchase the 90 day travel pass and consideration of any other areas identified.

Part 4 Measures to mitigate disproportionate or adverse impact or improve on neutral or positive impacts: *(Please refer to the guidance for additional information)*

4.1 If there is any negative impact on any target equality group identified in part 3, is the impact intended or legal?

There is no legal requirement on the council to provide travel concessions for young people other than home to school transport.

4.2 Specify measures that can be taken to remove or minimize the disproportionate or adverse effect identified in part 3. If none were identified, identify how disproportionate or adverse effect could be avoided in the future.

As note to part 3.

4.3 If there is no evidence that the scheme promotes equality, equal opportunities or improves relations within equality target groups, what amendments can be made to achieve this?

Promotion of alternative travel opportunities for all young people resident on the Isle of Wight.

4.4 If a neutral or positive impact has been identified, can that impact be improved upon (continuous improvement)?

As 4.3

4.5 How will any scheme be implemented?

n/a

4.6 As 4.5 above please identify training requirements.

n/a

Part 5 Conclusions & recommendations

This section ensures that what ever we are impact assessing, whether it be a service, policy, procedure, practice or project that ensure that we abide by the general and specific duties to promote race, disability and gender equality. *(Please refer to guidance for additional information)*

5.1 Does the scheme comply with equalities legislation?

Yes

5.2 What are the main areas requiring further attention?

Promotion of alternative discounted travel options for young people

5.3 Summary of recommendations for improvement

n/a

5.4 What equality monitoring, evaluation, review systems have been set up to carry out regular checks?

n/a

5.5 When will the amended scheme be reviewed?

n/a – the recommendation is for scheme removal and for the promotion of other discounted travel options for young people. Along with further discussions with lead members and officers to ensure that those affected by the removal of the scheme receive support as identified in section 3.

Part 6 Action / improvement plan

The table below should be completed using the information from the equality impact assessment to produce an action plan for the implementation of the proposals to:

1. Lower the negative impact, and/or
2. Ensure that the negative impact is legal under anti-discriminatory law, and/or
3. Provide an opportunity to promote equality, equal opportunity and improve relations within equality target groups, i.e. increase the positive impact

Please ensure that you update your service/business plan within the equality objectives/targets and actions identified below:

Area of negative impact	Action proposed	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Race					
Disability					
Age					
Religious and Philosophical belief					
Gender					
Sexual orientation					
Geographical location					
All of the above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and publicise availability of alternative discounted travel options for young people 2. Members and officers action to mitigate any identified disadvantage as recorded in 1.9 and 3 above. 	HOS for Highways & Transport & Learning & Achievement Lead Members	September 2010 onwards	Within current resources	

Part 6 continued – Equality Impact Assessment – Summary report

The results of equality impact assessments must be published. Please complete this summary, which will be used to publish the results of your impact assessment on the council's website, and return it to the HR OD & Diversity Manager.

Date of assessment

Officers name	Roger Edwardson	Role	HOS Learning & Achievement
	Andy Morris		IWC Transport Manager

Service, policy, procedure, practice or project that was impact assessed

Summary of findings

Summary of recommendations and key points of action plan

Groups that this policy will impact upon

Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

