

## Annex 2

### 1. Topic of assessment

<b>EIA title:</b>	Surrey County Council (SCC) Review of English National Concessionary Travel Scheme Enhancements
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<b>EIA author:</b>	Keith McKain, Change Consultant, Highways, Transport & Environment
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### 2. Approval

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
<b>Approved by<sup>1</sup></b>		

### 3. Quality control

<b>Version number</b>	V0.3	<b>EIA completed</b>	
<b>Date saved</b>	22.11.18	<b>EIA published</b>	

### 4. EIA team

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title (if applicable)</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Paul Millin	Strategic Transport Group Manager	SCC	Project Sponsor
Adam Whittaker	Policy & Strategic Partnerships Manager	SCC	Corporate equalities oversight
Directorate Equalities Group	N/A	SCC	Directorate equalities oversight

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to earlier guidance for details on getting approval for your EIA.

## 5. Explaining the matter being assessed

<b>What policy, function or service is being introduced or reviewed?</b>	<p>Like most councils across the country we're facing massive financial challenges. Rising demand for services – particularly those supporting children, older people and our most vulnerable residents – and reducing government grant means we need to make some very difficult decisions about the way we deliver services across Surrey.</p> <p>We have worked hard over the past few years to find savings in areas which will have the least impact on residents - such as being more efficient and modernising our support services, using technology more effectively and being more joined up – and since 2010 we've saved £540million.</p> <p>But over the next two years we need to save a further £85million to make sure we're financially robust, able to meet the future with confidence and can deliver the best possible services to the people who need them most.</p> <p>This means we will have to stop providing some services we know Surrey people value and rely on. We're committed to doing this as honestly and openly as possible and we will be consulting residents, partners and businesses to get their views on a range of proposals and options for the future of these services.</p> <p>One of the areas of funding which we will need to make some difficult decisions about is our support for concessionary bus travel across the county.</p> <p>Central government provides councils with some funding so that qualifying older and disabled people can travel for free on buses after 09.30 and before 23.00 during the week and all day at weekends and on public holidays. This is known as the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (the ENTCS).</p>
<b>What proposals are you assessing?</b>	<p>In Surrey we provide extra funding for residents so that people with a disabled person's bus pass can travel free at any time. We also provide companion bus passes so that any qualifying older or disabled bus pass holders who need assistance to be able to travel can take someone with them who can travel for free as well.</p> <p>We are proposing to reduce this extra funding to bring us into line with other councils who offer the statutory scheme.</p> <p>Disabled pass holders travelling before 09.30 and after 23.00 on weekdays would then need to pay. Bus travel would still be free between 09.30 and 23.00 on weekdays and all day at weekends and on public holidays. As well as this change we are proposing to no longer provide companion bus passes. The older or disabled pass holder will still travel for free but anyone travelling with them would need to pay.</p>

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	<p>Ahead of making any final decisions about the future of funding for concessionary bus travel in the county we want to seek your views and understand the impact of our proposals for the future of concessionary travel funding.</p> <p>This consultation questionnaire asks a series of questions about the way you and others use bus services in Surrey and how you and others may be affected by the proposals we are making.</p> <p>The proposal for disabled bus pass holders is to:          - Move to the national statutory level for free travel between 09.30 and 23.00 on weekdays and free travel at weekends and on public holidays.</p> <p>The proposal for companion buss pass holders is to:          - Move to the national statutory level and withdraw free travel for companions</p> <p>This document begins the process of assessing the potential impacts on protected groups and will be updated with the responses to the consultation.</p>
<b>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All disabled pass holders their carers or families</li> <li>• All disabled or older companion pass holders their carers or families</li> <li>• Businesses – from the staff using a disabled pass to travel</li> <li>• Service operators – who get a proportionate reimbursement for concessionary travel</li> <li>• Partner and external organisations – who may represent older or disabled people or who have people traveling to them using a disabled or companion pass</li> </ul>

## 6. Sources of information.

<b>Engagement carried out</b>
<p>No engagement has taken place at the time of first drafting.</p> <p>A set of engagement activities is being planned for when the consultation launches. This will include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A full public consultation</li> <li>- Meeting with the Disability Empowerment Networks &amp; Chairs meeting as well as the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People with material sent to other disability and carer representative groups</li> <li>- Meeting with the Joint and Local Committee Chairman</li> <li>- Consultation material sent to bus user groups and operators</li> <li>- Consultation material sent to boroughs, districts, parish and town councils</li> <li>- Meeting with SCC colleagues in social care and material sent to their networks</li> </ul>
<b>Data used</b>
<p><b>Data that has been used for previous consultations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback to the consultation questionnaire and views submitted by e-mail or post</li> <li>• Outcomes of stakeholder meetings during the public consultation</li> <li>• ESP Systex Concessionary Fares Card Management System and data from Consultants MCL</li> </ul>

## 7. Impact of the new/amended policy, service or function

## **7a. Impact of the proposals on residents and service users with protected characteristics**

Please see details on the following pages.

Protected characteristic <sup>2</sup>	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
<b>Age</b>	None	<p>The proposals would affect all older people who qualify for a companion bus pass.</p> <p>Qualification for a pass based on age is linked to the applicant's pensionable age. Which is increasing in line with Government changes to 66 for women by 2020. At which point it will be the same for both men and women.</p> <p>As a consequence, this would make it more difficult for those residents who need assistance to travel to access key services. This could then have an adverse effect on other service areas within the council e.g. Adults Social Care and Public Health.</p>	<p>Evidence to be gathered from the public consultation and ESP System Concessionary Fares Card Management System.</p> <p>The National Travel survey indicates that bus usage is highest amongst 16-24 year olds and those aged 65 and over.</p> <p>In Surrey we have 157,535 older persons concessionary pass holders. With 184 people having a +C older persons companion pass.</p> <p>Impact on pass holders will be updated through the consultation process.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	None	<p>The proposals would affect all disabled pass holders and particularly those disabled companion pass holders.</p> <p>As a consequence, this would make it more difficult for those residents with disabilities who travel at times outside of the national statutory scheme or those who need assistance to to travel to access key services.</p>	<p>There are 8,065 disabled concessionary persons pass holders. With another 2,557 people having a +C Disabled Person Companion Pass.</p> <p>Approximately one third (31%) of respondents to the 2016 Local Transport Review consultation questionnaire said that they had a disability or longstanding condition which affects how they travel.</p> <p>Evidence to be gathered from the public consultation and ESP System Concessionary Fares Card Management System.</p>

<sup>2</sup> More information on the definitions of these groups can be found [here](#).

		This could then have an adverse effect on other service areas within the council e.g. Adults Social Care and Public Health.	Impact on pass holders will be updated through the consultation process.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Race</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Religion and belief</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Sex</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Marriage and civil partnerships</b>	None	None	There is no differential impact on this protected characteristic.
<b>Carers<sup>3</sup></b>		<p>Either paid or unpaid carers travelling as a companion would need to pay the full fare under these proposals.</p> <p>The proposals may impact on people's ability to live more independently, therefore putting more demand on carers.</p>	The impact on carers will be updated through the consultation process.

## 7b. Impact of the proposals on staff with protected characteristics

SCC staff will be impacted in the same way as the public and therefore will be encouraged to take part in the consultation. Any impact on protected characteristics will be the same as those described above.

<sup>3</sup> Carers are not a protected characteristic under the Public Sector Equality Duty, however we need to consider the potential impact on this group to ensure that there is no associative discrimination (i.e. discrimination against them because they are associated with people with protected characteristics). The definition of carers developed by Carers UK is that 'carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help, because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid. This includes adults looking after other adults, parent carers looking after disabled children and young carers under 18 years of age.'

## 8. Amendments to the proposals

Change	Reason for change
N/A at this time	N/A

## 9. Action plan

Potential impact (positive or negative)	Action needed to maximise positive impact or mitigate negative impact	By when	Owner
To be assessed during the consultation period			

## 10. Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated

Potential negative impact	Protected characteristic(s) that could be affected
<p>May impact on access to work, health care, education, etc.</p> <p>May increase rural and social isolation.</p> <p>May create a demand pressure on community transport and voluntary transport.</p> <p>All of the potential negative impacts would put pressure on those people's personal finances or those of their carer/s.</p>	Older and disabled people and their carers

## 11. Summary of key impacts and actions

<b>Information and engagement underpinning equalities analysis</b>	<p>As with previous consultations - Analysis will be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses received during the public consultation</li> <li>• Feedback given at our stakeholder meetings during the public consultation period and any written stakeholder feedback</li> <li>• National surveys and bus operator patronage data</li> <li>• ESP Systex Concessionary Fares Card Management System data and MCL consultancy data</li> <li>• Local information (Surrey-i)</li> </ul>
<b>Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics</b>	<p>May impact on access to work, health care, education, etc.</p> <p>May increase rural and social isolation.</p> <p>May create a demand pressure on community transport and voluntary transport</p> <p>All of the potential negative impacts would put pressure on those people's personal finances or those of their carer/s.</p>

<b>Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA</b>	No amendments made at this time
<b>Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts</b>	Potential mitigation options will be assessed during the consultation period, but these would likely not remove the need for people to pay for transport should a move to the national statutory scheme level be agreed.
<b>Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated</b>	<p>May impact on access to work, health care, education, etc.</p> <p>May increase rural and social isolation.</p> <p>May create a demand pressure on community transport and voluntary transport</p> <p>All of the potential negative impacts would put pressure on those people's personal finances or those of their carer/s.</p>