

Equality Impact Assessment for CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/23

Following the introduction of the Equality Act 2010 ('the EA') a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EA;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (as defined by the EA) and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics set out in the EA are age, disability, race, pregnancy/ maternity, religion or belief, gender (including gender reassignment) and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are also protected characteristics for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination. When making decisions the County Council also considers other matters such as the impact of rurality, deprivation and being a carer.

The 5 year Capital Programme requires Members to have due regard to the Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the EA as set out above. Having “due regard” does not necessarily require the achievement of all the aims set out in section 149 of the EA. Instead it requires that Members’ understand the consequences of the decision for those with the relevant protected characteristics and consider these alongside other relevant factors when making the decision to pursue one course of action rather than another, alternative course of action that may have different consequences. The regard which is necessary will depend upon the circumstances of the decision in question, and should be proportionate. Where a decision is likely to have an impact on a significant number of people, or where it is likely to have a significant impact on even a small number of people, the regard required will be high.

This means that in setting the Capital Programme, the three equality aims set out above have to be considered as a relevant factor alongside financial constraints and all other relevant considerations. Bids for Capital Funding have not been sought from departments rather the bids presented below represent spending required to discharge statutory duties in service delivery or provide maintenance to infrastructure to keep people or their data safe. Members must consider the equalities impacts of the agreeing this capital programme. Specifically, Members need to take account of what the potential impacts of spending on this identified core programme rather than other areas will be for the communities in East Sussex. It will be open to Directors and Lead Members at the time of taking those decisions on the capital programme to spend more on one activity and less or none on another.

The EA does not require an equality impact assessment (EqIA) to be carried out; however the cases considering the public sector equality duty have held that an EIA is the best way to demonstrate that the equalities impacts have been identified and considered. Where a project which was included in the Capital Programme is likely to have impacts upon equalities, officers have considered the consequences for those with protected characteristics of that particular project or bid not being included in the Programme up to 2022/23, and have summarised these impacts for Members to consider. Where EIAs have been conducted these will be available as background documents.

	Impact on Protected Characteristics								Comments	
	Age	Disability	Ethnicity	Gender & transgender	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Religion & Belief	Sexual Orientation	No significant relevance to equality	
Business Services										
Property Building Improvements										Supports both corporate and schools building improvements to ensure safety. *Although the DfE School Condition Grant is not ring-fenced ESCC need to be transparent about where on the schools estate the spending occurs.
ICT Strategy Implementation										
Communities, Economy & Transport										
Newhaven Port Access Road										Slippage from previously agreed programme
Highways Maintenance										Capital funding for structural maintenance will deliver the Asset Management Plan to improve highway condition. Better maintained roads and footways will help to eliminate trip hazards. The Highways Capital maintenance paper outlines the risks of not using Capital funding in this area.
Bridge Structures										As above
Street Lighting										As above
Rights of Way										The only parts which are to any extent capital funded are the improvements to surfaces and ramps and the replacement of stiles with gates and gaps, if not funded the lack of improvement will mean that people with the protected characteristics will have poorer access to rights of way.
Other Integrated Transport Schemes										Non-ringfenced funding