

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Introduction

This EqIA is for:

Proposed Bus Stop Clearways – Brick Kiln Lane, Mansfield
MA0690

Details are set out:

Proposed Bus Stop Clearways – Brick Kiln Lane, Mansfield (MA0289-
MA0690 and MA0590-MA0612)
Consideration of Objections

Officers undertaking the
assessment:

Helen North – Improvements Manager, Via East Midlands Ltd
Elliott Mizen - Facilities & Partnerships Manager, Nottinghamshire
County Council

Assessment approved by:

Gary Wood, Group Manager Highways and
Transport

Date:

The Public Sector Equality Duty which is set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The purpose of carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the impact of a change to services or policy on people with protected characteristics and to demonstrate that the Council has considered the aims of the Equality Duty.

Part A: Impact, consultation and proposed mitigation

1 What are the potential impacts of proposal? *Has any initial consultation informed the identification of impacts?*

The purpose of the bus stop clearways is to provide an area clear of parked vehicles to enable buses to pull up and allow passengers to board and alight from the footway. This will benefit all users of the bus network as it will enable everyone to board the bus with step-free access directly to and from the footway.

The provision of a bus stop clearway will:

- Help the bus align with the kerb to enable level access for disabled passengers and pushchair users;
- Ease congestion as a correctly aligned bus will not block the road for other road users;
- Ensure that bus drivers discharge their duty to drop passengers off on the kerb and not on the road;
- Ensure that the investment in raised kerbs, (in accordance with the Equality Act 2010), is not negated;
- Ensure that bus services operate on time and are not delayed.

The County Council has received reports of obstructive parking affecting access to four bus stops on Brick Kiln Lane, Mansfield, which are served by Stagecoach services 6 and 217 (the latter funded by Nottinghamshire County Council).

In response it is proposed to introduce clearway restrictions at these bus stops, to ensure that the bus stops can be clearly identified by users and prevent obstruction of the stops by parked vehicles. Four 15 metre Bus Stop Clearways (No Stopping except buses, 7am -7pm Mon Sat) are proposed at the following locations:

- Stops MA0590 and MA0612, which are located to the north-west of Ladybrook Lane. The stops are currently marked by one, 'both ways', bus stop pole on the south-western side of Brick Kiln Lane at stop MA0612.
- Stops MA0690 and MA0289 located to the south-east of Ladybrook Lane. The stops are currently marked by one, 'both ways', bus stop pole on the south-western side of Brick Kiln Lane at stop MA0289.

Bus operators have a duty to drop passengers off on the kerb and not on the road. The opportunity to board with lowered access from the bus directly to the footway will benefit all users of the network but will be of particular benefit for groups including the elderly, disabled and parents/carers travelling with young children (in pushchairs or walking independently).

2 Protected Characteristics: Is there a potential positive or negative impact based on:

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Pregnancy & maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Race <small>including origin, colour or nationality</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Sexual orientation <small>including gay, lesbian or bisexual</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact

3 Where there are potential negative impacts for protected characteristics these should be detailed including consideration of the equality duty, proposals for how they could be mitigated (where possible) and meaningfully consulted on:

How do the potential impacts affect people with protected characteristics <i>What is the scale of the impact?</i>	How might negative impact be mitigated or explain why it is not possible	How will we consult
No negative impact.		

Part B: Feedback and further mitigation

4 Summary of consultation feedback and further amendments to proposal / mitigation

As part of the consultation, all householders with directly affected frontages and all statutory consultees were written to detailing the clearway proposals. The clearway proposals were also publicised on NCC's website and site notices erected at the stops. The consultation for the proposed clearways, to be in force Monday to Saturday 7.00am to 7.00pm, was undertaken between 13th November and 11th December 2020.

A total of nine responses were received to the consultation, including a 24-signature petition. Eight responses are considered to be outstanding objections to some or all the proposals. This comprises of responses in respect of the following locations:

- MA0289-MA0690 - five objections
- MA0612-MA0590 - three objections (including the 24-signature petition)

This equality impact assessment relates to three objections received in respect of stop reference MA0690.

Two respondents raised concerns about health / mobility issues for family members which they felt necessitated being able to park near their house and would be negatively affected by the introduction of the clearway.

The proposed clearway marking would extend part-way across the highway frontage of the property, the rest will remain unrestricted and available for parking by the residents and their visitors. Where residents have significant health issues it may be appropriate to request an advisory disabled bay marking on the Highway, which would be provided free of charge by the County Council. The respondents have been advised that If the relevant criteria are met an advisory disabled bay can be installed adjacent to the proposed clearway as part of the scheme.

One respondent objected on the grounds that they considered the new bus stop facilities (pole and clearway) would intrude on their privacy, and that anxiety felt by a family member would be adversely affected by increased noise levels and litter generated from passengers waiting for buses.

MA0690 is already an existing stop, which operates as a pair with stop MA0289 on the other side of the road, which is clearly marked by the flag which states it is a 'two-way stop'. Identifying the location of this existing bus stop with a new pole and clearway marking will not increase noise or intrusion from passengers, it will just ensure that the location of the stop is both clearly marked and remains unobstructed by parked private vehicles. The proposed bus stop pole has been positioned on the widest section of footway in advance of the traffic calming feature. It is anticipated that the number of passengers likely to be waiting at the stop will remain similar to existing demand and will be used by residents local to the facility; any waiting passengers at the stop will be over 12m away from the resident's property and are unlikely to be present for extended periods of time. The respondent's concern regarding potential litter is noted and as part of the scheme a request will be made to Mansfield District Council to consider installing a rubbish bin at the bus stop.

The introduction of the clearway is not affected by the introduction of an advisory disabled bay nor the provision of a litter bin so no alteration to the scheme is proposed as a result of the EqlA.

Completed EqlAs should be sent to equalities@nottsc.gov.uk and will be published on the Council's website.