Equality Impact Assessment

WARRINGTON Borough Council

SECTION 1: Aims and Objective of the Policy / Service / Function

Directorate: Infrastructure Delivery, Highways and Engineering   Department: Environment and Transport

Assessment Lead: Jim Turton   Email: jimturton@warrington.gov.uk   Telephone Number: 01925 44 2542

Name of the policy / service / function: Engineering & Flood Risk

Is this a new or existing policy / service / function?

i)	New	[X]	ii)	Policy	[ ]
	Existing	[ ]		Service	[ ]
				Function	[X]

In the box below please provide background Information on the policy / service / function.

Headline questions to consider:
– *What are the main aims and objectives?*

Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid 2019/20

This purpose of the Challenge Fund is to enable Local Authorities to bid for major maintenance projects that are otherwise difficult to fund through the normal Needs Based Formula funding they receive.

Warrington's Key Route Network has links to the M6, M62 and M56 making it attractive for businesses to invest in the area. The use of Warrington's Key Route Network provides the main corridors that are used for travel across Warrington. These routes can become heavily congested due to the amounts of daily usage on them. In addition, Warrington's Key Route Network provides diversion and alternative routes for traffic when incidents or problems arise on the surrounding motorways.

Warrington's proposed Challenge Fund bid is primarily intended to improve highway condition. The 9 schemes proposed represent approximately 6km of Warrington's Key Route Network which provide strategic links throughout the Borough.

If the bid is successful, it will support the provision of highway schemes which will aim to:

- Provide a safe and serviceable highway,
- Provide accessibility to and from communities for people, goods and services,
- Enhances the sense of place within our communities and promotes active and healthy lifestyles,
- Promotes the development and maintenance of sustainable communities,
- Contributes to wider economic growth and development, (Current and future developments),

- Contributes to wider environmental management,
- Makes effective and efficient use of our local resources,
- Appropriately maintained to conserve its value and integrity for current and future service users.

Headline questions to consider:

– *Who are the main stakeholders?*

The stakeholders of the service include all users of the highway network in Warrington, residents, visitors, business users, Council Members and emergency services as well as many others.

Headline questions to consider:

– *What outcomes will be/are delivered as a result?*

The main outcomes of the scheme will be:
- Improvement in Key Route Network carriageway condition,
- Projected and actual performance indicators for the scheme,
- Improvements to scheme and Borough asset valuation as a result of scheme implementation,
- Benefits associated with optimised whole life costs for the scheme.

The wider benefits may include:
- Anticipated and demonstrable reduction in reactive maintenance,
- Anticipated and demonstrable reduction in claims,
- Improved journey times,
- Improved customer satisfaction,
- Improved efficiency of highway inspection teams.

The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy and corporate policy. The strategy aims to ensure that the levels of service and lifecycle planning for the highway assets take full account of the needs of all users of the asset.

The Asset Management Strategy links directly with our Corporate priority of ensuring the borough is well connected and accessible by further establishing the Transport Strategy for Warrington, investing in Warrington's transport infrastructure and delivering more sustainable transportation modes.

Headline questions to consider:

– *How will/is the service promoted/explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly?*

Warrington Borough Council's communications strategy for highways, transport, transport planning, street lighting and public realm management involves a holistic approach to engage with customers and partners in a thorough and timely manner.

We provide information about the role of asset management and the work involved in maintaining and improving roads, footways, street lighting and structures and aim to meet and manage customers' expectations but to ensure they are realistic. The key element is that communications are accessible, accurate, informative and timely. We engage with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to better understand their needs and expectations during live projects and encourage positive or negative feedback. This helps to shape and to improve our services. We target messages using the most appropriate and cost-effective media platforms.

With more than 15,000 Twitter followers and 4,000 on Facebook we target messages quickly and refer people to our website for more details. Issues raised at Contact Centre by phone, email or walk-in customers are referred to the appropriate team to action in good time.

In addition, Warrington subscribes to the NHT surveys where feedback is assessed and survey results are used to tailor strategies to meet customer needs. Any immediate or emerging problems with bridges, roads and transport are communicated instantly through social media and media partners including local radio.

All projects must progress through a robust approval process including assessment Board, LTP approval Board, Portfolio approval, and Director approval.

If the bid is successful, the proposed scheme will be subject to full consultation / notification and it will take place in accordance with Council policies and procedures.

The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board.

Headline questions to consider:

– *Is there evidence of any complaints on grounds of discrimination? If yes, how were these resolved?*

No

SECTION 2: Research and Intelligence

For each of the equality target groups listed in the table below outline:

(i) What data or evidence is available on the number of people (i.e. members of the public or staff) accessing or are affected by this policy / service / function? *(Tip: Cite any quantitative and qualitative evidence e.g. demographic/census data, equality monitoring data, surveys, focus groups) for service user profile, local population and regional or national research).*

(ii) What involvement or consultation which has been carried out and how it influenced this policy / service / function*? (Tip: List methods of consultation used and provide a brief summary of the responses gained and actions as a result).*

For information on current consultation exercises please click here for further details or use the following link: http://consultations.warrington.gov.uk/warrington/home/home.asp?LoggingIn=tempVar.

If you do not currently record information on the users of this policy / service / function, please provide details in the table below what arrangements are in place to capture the relevant data for this?

Equality Group	(i) Service User Profile – how is the take up of each group reflected in those accessing or affected by policy / service / function?	(ii) Involvement and Consultation – how have you engaged with those accessing or affected by policy / service / function?
Age	0 - 15 yrs (19% - 39,800) 16 – 64 yrs (63% - 131,600) 65+ yrs (18% - 38,300) *Data obtained from the Office for National Statistics mid-year 2017 estimates. *Figures represent a total population of 209,700.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport.
Disability	In 2017-18 the council provided long term support for 1351 (38.5%) men and 2159 (61.5%) women making a total of 3510. Personal Independence Payments - In April 2018 11,613 people comprising of 5,508 men and 6,105 women were registered to receive personal independence payments. Carers – For the period 1/4/17 to 31/3/18 the total number of carers receiving direct payment was 3313. 821 carers received respite or another form of carer support **Children and Young People**	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport

	As of January 2018, there were 3,901 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities– 12% of the school population. 8.3% (2,698) of pupils received SEN Support in school. There are 1,562 children and young people (0-25 years) with an Education and Health Care Plan. The most commonly primary needs recorded on the plans were; moderate learning difficulty (378 pupils, 24%) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (356 pupils, 23%). As at March 2018 there were 284 young carers registered for the contracted carer support service, WIRED *Data obtained from the Office for National Statistics mid-year 2017 estimates.	
Gender Reassignment	No information available.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport.
Pregnancy and maternity	According to the Office for National Statistics in 2017 the birth rate in Warrington was 10.2% which is slightly below the North West at 11.5% and England and Wales at 11.6%. *Data obtained from the Office for National Statistics mid-year 2017 estimates.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport.
Race	91.4% of people living in Warrington where born in England, 1.4% where born in Scotland, 1.1% born in Wales, 0.6% born in India, 0.5% born in Ireland, 0.4% born Northern Ireland, 0.2% born in Pakistan, 0.2% born in the Philippines, 0.2% born in South Africa,	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport

	0.1% born in the United States of America, 3.9% Other. *Data obtained from the 2011 census.	
Religious / Faith Groups	The religious proportions in Warrington are 71.4% Christian, 20% no religion, 1.0% Muslim, 0.6% Hindu, 0.2% Buddhist, 0.2% Sikh, 0.1% Jewish, 6.5% Other. *Data obtained from the 2011 census.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport
Sex (Gender)	Male – 49.6% (104,100) Female – 50.4% (105,600) *Data obtained from the 2011 census.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport
Sexual Orientation	No information available.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board.
Other (e.g. marriage & civil partnership	No information available.	The bid supports and is in accordance with the Councils Asset Management Strategy which has been approved by Executive Board. The bid is to be scrutinised by Department for Transport

SECTION 3: Assessing the Impact

Assess the positive, negative and neutral affects this policy / service / function has on the different equality target groups.

	Positive Impacts or Benefits – Consider how the policy / service / function will/does promote equal opportunities. – Highlight benefits for each equality target group.	Negative Impacts – Consider and identify barriers that could/does restrict access to the policy / service / function for each equality target group. – Identify any unlawful discrimination (directly or indirectly).	Neutral - Identify how the policy / service / function will/is impartial and unbiased in its delivery.
Age (young and older people)	Population is growing older and so the number of groups who suffer from mobility and/or visual impairment can be expected to rise in line with this. Prior to any works undertaken, an assessment is undertaken to determine if improvements in accessibility can be made as part of a scheme to comply with DDA Guidelines. Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.
Disability (physical or sensory impairments, learning disability and mental illness)	Prior to any works undertaken, an assessment is undertaken to determine if improvements in accessibility can be made as part of a scheme to comply with DDA Guidelines. Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.

Gender Reassignment (person proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone reassigning their sex)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.

Pregnancy and maternity (the rights of a woman and her maternity leave)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.
Race (include nationality, ethnicity inc. Travelling people)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.
Religious / Faith Groups (specify group)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.
Sex (men and women)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.

Sexual Orientation (lesbian, gay, heterosexual and bisexual)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.
Other (These other groups could include factors such as marriage & civil partnership, deprivation or poverty, literacy, rurality)	Improvement in highway condition enables a safer transport environment. The beneficiaries of this approach to the asset management of the Key Route Network will be all transport users without discrimination.	None identified.	Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.

SECTION 4: Improvement Plan

Please list below the actions that you will be taking to:
- Address all negative impacts identified.
- Tackle any gaps in knowledge about the policy / service / function being assessed.
- Increase positive impacts, further promote areas of best practice and improve relations with equality target groups.

| Equality Target Group | Action required | Desired Outcome | Responsible Officer | Resource Implications | Timescale | | *This Section is to be completed following the Annual E.I.A Review* |
					Start Date	End Date	Has the outcome been achieved? What impact has been made?
All	Continue to implement asset management approach, maximising opportunities for additional funding to increase rate of implementation	Improvement in Warrington Highway Network	Jim Turton	Capital	2019	2020	

Please note the lead officer for this Equality Impact Assessment is responsible for ensuring all actions are incorporated into directorate / service / team plans.

SECTION 5: Monitoring and Review
Who will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy / service / function?

Responsible Officer: Jim Turton   Job Title: Engineering & Flood Risk Manager

Directorate: Infrastructure Delivery, Highways and Engineering   Department: Environment & Transport

Telephone Number: 01925 442542   Email: jimturton@warrington.gov.uk

Date to be reviewed: Post completion.

In addition to publishing Section 6 of the E.I.A on the council's website, how will you inform people of the findings and further actions?

EIA will be packaged with the submission.

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the policy / service / function for all equality target groups?

If the bid is successful, the project will be monitored to see whether any remedial measures are required / justified.

Authorisation

Engineering & Flood Risk Manager Signature: Date: Monday, 28 October 2019

Annual Review

Date Reviewed: ……………………………………….   Service Manager Signature: …………………………………….….

SECTION 6: Summary Report

The results of this Equality Impact Assessment will be published on the authority's website.

Date of Assessment: October 2019   **Date to be reviewed**: Post completion.

Name of the policy / service / function: Engineering & Flood Risk.

- **What are the main aims and objectives of the policy / service / function?**

The bid is to fund a major maintenance project to the Key Route Network in Warrington.

- **Summary of Impacts Found**

No Adverse Impact found   [X] Adverse impact found   []   Activity amended to stop or reduce adverse impact []

- **Summary of Key Findings**

Improvements to the Key Route Network will benefit all users of the highway network in Warrington. Improvements will not discriminate against any groups within Warrington.

- **Summary of Key Action Points**

Upon request bid submission / asset management literature to be made available in larger font sizes for people with poor eyesight.