

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

Name of item being assessed:	West Berkshire Local Transport Plan 2011/2026 Freight Strategy
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	October 2014
Owner of item being assessed:	Jenny Graham
Name of assessor:	Chris Sperring
Date of assessment:	12th October 2014

1. What are the main aims of the item?
Freight is an important issue in West Berkshire. The Freight Strategy forms part of the delivery mechanism for the Local Transport Plan (LTP), specifically looking at delivering LTP Key Policy K12: Freight. The strategy is the Council's vision for balancing the requirement for efficient distribution of goods around the District with the social and environmental effects of freight movement. It includes seeking to promote sustainable distribution, but whilst at the same time acknowledging that road freight will continue to be the dominant means of freight distribution, and therefore seeks ways how this can be managed to minimise the impact on local communities.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this.
Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage & Civil Partnership, Pregnancy & Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation	The strategy will not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics. If anything the strategy is likely to improve things, as it is aiming manage the movement of freight in the District so that it minimises the impact on local communities.	

Further comments relating to the item:
The Freight Strategy is the Council's vision for balancing the requirement for the efficient distribution of goods around West Berkshire with the social and environmental effects of freight movement. The strategy builds upon the Freight Strategy developed as part of the previous Local Transport Plan, which has seen the development of the West Berkshire Freight Route Network; an series of advisory routes that the Council would wish freight operators to use in order to minimise the impact of freight on local communities and the environment.

The strategy also seeks to encourage more sustainable distribution practices (i.e. by rail and inland waterway) as alternatives to road freight as these can help to reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles on the road network. Similarly, the strategy looks at alternative means of road deliveries to help reduce the number of lorries in urban areas and their impacts on communities, such as in terms of noise and air quality.

The main element of the strategy is how the Council will seek to manage the impacts of road freight traffic since this is and will be continue to be by far the most dominant means of freight distribution. This includes outlining the various measures and initiatives that the Council will seek to use to manage heavy goods vehicles to protect local communities and improve road safety, whilst at the same time enabling essential access to local businesses and communities.

3. Result (please tick by clicking on relevant box)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Relevance - This does not need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	X

Name: Chris Sperring

Date: 12th October 2014