



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening Template

April 2020

Proposal/Brief Title: e-scooter trial in Buckinghamshire

Date: 18.10.2020

Type of strategy, policy, project or service:

Please tick one of the following:

- Existing
- New or proposed**
- Changing, update or revision
- Other (please explain)

This report was created by

Name Jo Morphet

Job Title Transport Strategy Lead Officer

Email address jo.morphet@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Briefly describe the aims and objectives of the proposal below:

Buckinghamshire Council have submitted a proposal to the Department of Transport (DfT) to participate in e-scooter rental trials. These trials have been fast-tracked by the DfT across the country to help ease the burden on public transport and allow for other social distancing options on our transport infrastructure during the current Covid 19 crisis.

Aims of the trial include:

- To inform decision making as to the potential to legalise e-scooter use in future
- To evaluate safety
- To measure the transport mode-shift
- Acceptability to other road users and community and the public response to the trials

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- To provide evidence so a full assessment of safety for riders, other road users and the community can be undertaken.
- To assess the effectiveness of e-scooters as a transport option in response to Covid 19 and in the future.



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- Identify levels of transport mode shift.
- Confirm whether e-scooters make a positive contribution towards the County's ambition to improve air quality and reduce its carbon emissions.

1) Screening Questions

1.1 Does this proposal plan to withdraw a service, activity or presence? No

Please explain your answer: This is a new transport option being introduced in the UK (currently not legal). No current Bucks service, activity or presence will be reduced to accommodate it

1.2 Does this proposal plan to reduce a service, activity or presence? No

Please explain your answer: This is a new transport option being introduced in the UK. No current Bucks service, activity or presence will be reduced to accommodate it

1.3 Does this proposal plan to introduce, review or change a policy, strategy or procedure? Yes

Please explain your answer: An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) is required to facilitate the trial. The trial lasts 12 months. The ETRO is for the trial period only.

Does this proposal affect service users and/or customers, or the wider community? Yes

Please explain your answer: This will be a new mode of transport on the streets and cycle-paths of Buckinghamshire

1.4 Does this proposal affect employees? No

Please explain your answer: In the capacity of an employee of Bucks Council, this proposal does not affect employment terms, conditions or contracts.

1.5 Will employees require training to deliver this proposal? No

Please explain your answer: In the capacity of an employee of Bucks Council, training is not required.

1.6 Has any engagement /consultation been carried out? Yes

Please explain your answer: Internally, engagement and/or papers/briefings have been undertaken with Transport for Bucks, Active Travel Steering Group, Planning, Growth and Sustainability Management Team; officers required to confirm approval via forward plan process to approve ETRO.

Briefing papers have been circulated to all relevant Community Board Members, Town Councils, Parish Councils and town committees. All have been invited to presentations and Q & A sessions which are scheduled for the 8th and 14th Sep 2020.

Briefing papers have been circulated to Bucks Vision, RNIB, BuDS, and PHE. An initial meeting has been undertaken with sight loss organisations and other groups representing vulnerable people.

Externally, initial engagement has been undertaken with Thames Valley Police, NHS Bucks Trust, Aylesbury Garden Town, Chiltern Railways, BTVLEP.

Engagement is planned throughout the trial to ensure the needs of our communities are met.



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Are there any concerns at this stage which indicate that this proposal could have negative or unclear impacts on any of the group (s) below? (*protected characteristics). Please include any additional comments.

- A) Age* Yes/No
- B) Disability* Yes**
- C) Gender Reassignment* Yes/No
- D) Pregnancy & maternity* Yes/No
- E) Race & Ethnicity* Yes/No
- F) Religion & Belief* Yes/No
- G) Sex* Yes/No
- H) Sexual Orientation* Yes/No
- I) Marriage & Civil Partnership* Yes/No
- J) Carers Yes/No
- K) Rural isolation Yes/No
- L) Single parent families Yes/No
- M) Poverty (social & economic deprivation) Yes/No
- N) Military families / veterans Yes/No
- O) Gender identity Yes/No

Additional comments (please indicate which of the protected groups you are commenting on):

There are concerns regarding the impact on residents who may be blind, visually impaired or hard of hearing. A key aim of the trial is to provide evidence to assess safety for the users, other road users and the wider community.

As a result of this screening, is an EqIA required?

(If you have answered yes to any of the screening questions or any of the group (above), a full EqIA should be undertaken)

- Yes
- No

Briefly explain your answer:

One of the main aims of the trial is to assess safety. E-scooters are currently illegal in the UK and the Department of Transport would like evidence from the UK to consider safety before the decide whether to make e-scooters legal or not, in the future. This is also a requirement for Bucks entering into the trial and will provide evidence to identify whether the protected characteristic of disability is significantly impacted. This outcome will feed into our future decision-making processes concerning e-scooter rental schemes in Bucks.

EqIA Screening Sign off

Officer completing this Screening Template: Jo Morphet Date: 4/9/2020



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Equality Lead: (Please insert name) Date: (Please insert Date)

Shadow Buckinghamshire Corporate Board sign off (Please insert name) Date: (Please insert Date)

Please continue to the next page to complete a full EqIA.

EqIA – Full Equality Impact Assessment

Step 1: Introduction

Policy or Service to be assessed: E-scooter trial in Buckinghamshire



EqIA - trial
information.docx

Service and lead officer: Jo Morphet – Transport Strategy Lead Officer – Planning, Growth and Sustainability

Officers involved in the EqIA:

What are you impact assessing?

- Existing
- New/proposed
- Changing/Update revision

Other, please list:

-
-

Step 2: Scoping – what are you assessing?

What is the title of your service/strategy/policy/project?

E-scooter trial in Buckinghamshire

What is the aim of your service/strategy/policy/project?

The main aim of the trials is to build robust evidence about the safety benefits, public perceptions and wider impacts of e-scooters in order to inform legal changes that may be introduced after the trial period ends by the DfT. It will also provide residents with another transport mode that can help ease the burden on transport networks and allow for social distancing.

Who does/will it have an impact on? E.g. public, visitors, staff, members, partners?

The trial is open to the public to use



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Will there be an impact on any other functions, services or policies? If so, please provide more detail

no

Are there any potential barriers to implementing changes to your service/strategy/policy/project?

no

Step 3: Information gathering – what do you need to know about your customers and making a judgement about impacts

What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your policy or strategy will have an impact on, that is broken down by equality strand?

Age: service users are required to possess a provisional driving licence to access the service. This is due to the Department of Transport not being able to change primary legislation at short notice; the service will be limited to those over 16.

Disability: There is potential for e-scooters to impact on the daily lives of residents who are blind, partially sighted or hard of hearing. There is no current evidence in the UK to support perceived or actual impacts. The trial will provide that evidence.

Gender re-assignment: none – no impact

Race: none – no impact

Religion or belief: none – no impact

Sex: none – no impact

Sexual orientation: none – no impact

Pregnancy and maternity: none – no impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: none – no impact

Do you need any further information broken down by equality strand to inform this EqIA?

Yes

No

If yes, list here with actions to help you gather data for the improvement plan in Step 4

Ongoing evidence from existing trials and this trial once launched will be constantly assessed to ensure impacts on any protected characteristics are mitigated.

Is there any potential for direct or indirect discrimination?



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Yes

No

If yes, please provide more detail on how you will monitor/overcome this

The trial could directly impact on residents with disabilities.

Before the trial begins, we are engaging with national and local disability groups to ensure we have considered all their concerns and can provide mitigation where needed. This engagement will continue on a formal basis throughout the trial to enable us to respond to concerns.

Monthly reporting is required by the e-scooter operator to both the DfT and Buckinghamshire Council. This will include levels of incidents and complaints received from the public. These will be reviewed every month to ascertain whether we need to make any changes to the trial details. Should a serious incident take place, the technology behind the scooters can be quickly updated to ensure it does not reoccur.

It is a 12-month trial and if the impact on vulnerable residents, other road users, communities and the service users should escalate to an extremely dangerous level we can end the trial early.

Conclusion:

One of the key aims of the trial is to assess the safety of e-scooters in a controlled environment. The DfT have set strict guidelines for operators in terms of the technical specification of the scooters to ensure they are as safe as possible for users and the general public.

By participating in the trial, Buckinghamshire can evaluate evidence based on our own communities and the impact e-scooters may have on our vulnerable residents. It will enable us to control the trial to suit our own local requirements and allow an informed decision-making process over the future use of e-scooters in Buckinghamshire.

Step 4: Improvement plan – what are you going to change?

Issue	Action	Performance target (what difference will it make)	Lead Officer	Achieved
How to take into consideration the impact on residents with disabilities	Engage with disability groups before the trial starts to identify concerns and develop an action plan to address these.	Mitigation in place before the trial starts	Jo Morphet	
Impacts on residents with disabilities that	Monthly reporting will identify incidents and complaints	Adjustments to the trial details will be recorded to mitigate against	Jo Morphet	



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Issue	Action	Performance target (what difference will it make)	Lead Officer	Achieved
arise during the trial	during the trial period	further incidents and the impact of these changes will be reported		
	Formal engagement will continue with disability groups throughout the trial	Trial plan updated and reviewed on a monthly basis. (this will be daily at the beginning of the trial so adjustments and additional mitigation can be applied).	Jo Morphet	
Impacts on residents with disabilities of e-scooters	Equality Impact Assessment to be conducted at end of 12-month trial.	Evidence will feed into DfT trial assessment to consider legalisation	Jo Morphet	

EqIA approved by: Natalie Donhou Morley

Date: 10th November 2020

Next review date: