



Equality Analysis Toolkit

**Withnell Station Bridge Project
For Decision Making Items
Autumn 2022**



Question 1 - What is the nature of and are the key components of the proposal being presented?

All full opening of the Withnell Station bridge and prevent partial or full closure

Question 2 - Scope of the Proposal

Is the proposal likely to affect people across the county in a similar way or are specific areas likely to be affected – e.g. are a set number of branches/sites to be affected?

Affects Abbey Village, Chorley, nearby communities and Withnell and Brinscall, as well as connectivity north south along A675 from M65 to Bolton

Question 3 – Protected Characteristics Potentially Affected

Could the proposal have a particular impact on any group of individuals sharing protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, namely:

- Age
- Disability including Deaf people
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race/ethnicity/nationality
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage or Civil Partnership Status

And what information is available about these groups in the County's population or as service users/customers?

School bus and scheduled services service frequencies, patronage figures not available.

However, it is generally recognised that disabled people, younger and older people (age protected characteristic), women and those who are pregnant or on maternity leave are over-represented amongst bus users compared to the general population both in Lancashire and nationally.

Question 4 – Engagement/Consultation

How have people/groups been involved in or engaged with in developing this proposal?

Parish Council, local County Councillor informed of proposal

Question 5 – Analysing Impact

Could this proposal potentially disadvantage particular groups sharing protected characteristics and if so which groups and in what way? This pays particular attention to the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty:

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of protected characteristics;
- To advance equality of opportunity for those who share protected characteristics;
- To encourage people who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life;
- To contribute to fostering good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not/community cohesion;

The advancing of equality of opportunity would be adversely impacted were this project not to proceed for people from a number of protected characteristics groups.

* From the disability protected characteristics group mobility impaired people or those whose disabilities mean they cannot hold a driving licence due to disruption to public and specialist transport access,

- From the age protected characteristics group young people, older people who are no longer able to drive would be adversely impacted. In addition to impacts on service buses, school buses would also be affected
- and those without access to a car accessing school and public transport.
- From the sex protected characteristic group possibly women including those who are pregnant or on maternity leave as their levels of bus usage are higher than some other groups.

Active travel also impacted in nearby Withnell and Brinscall due to increased traffic and congestion, May impact visual impaired and mobility impaired pedestrians and cyclists and motorcyclists who are over-represented amongst recreational users in the area compared to other parts of the county and are likely to be disproportionately male.

Question 6 –Combined/Cumulative Effect

Could the effects of this proposal combine with other factors or decisions taken at local or national level to exacerbate the impact on any groups?

NA

Question 7 – Identifying Initial Results of Your Analysis

As a result of the analysis has the original proposal been changed/amended, if so please describe.

For full bridge closure access would be maintained. May have to consider traffic and parking restrictions measure in Withnell and Brinscall and HGV access only restrictions to these areas.

Question 8 - Mitigation

Will any steps be taken to mitigate/reduce any potential adverse effects of the proposal?

If weight limit or full closure implemented then further assessment will be undertaken on mitigation measures,

Question 9 – Balancing the Proposal/Countervailing Factors

This weighs up the reasons for the proposal – e.g. need for budget savings; damaging effects of not taking forward the proposal at this time – against the findings of the analysis.

Budget may be required for mitigation measures.

Question 10 – Final Proposal

In summary, what is the final proposal and which groups may be affected and how?

Proposal would be to keep bridge fully open if grant awarded. If not then implement 7.5T weight restriction and consider adjusting bus services serving Abbey Village and consider traffic mitigation for Withnell and Brinscall

Question 11 – Review and Monitoring Arrangements

What arrangements will be put in place to review and monitor the effects of this proposal?

Post implementation undertake appropriate traffic study in Withnell and Brinscall. Monitor compliance with 7.5T weight restriction.

Equality Analysis Prepared By Paul Binks

Position/Role Highways Asset Manager

Equality Analysis Endorsed by Line Manager and/or Service Head

Decision Signed Off By John Davies

Cabinet Member or Director Matt Townsend

For further information please contact

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