

# Medium Term Financial Plan Initial Equality Impact Assessment of Budget Proposal 2024/25



## 1. The Proposal

**Budget Theme:** Childrens transformation - home to schools transport services

**Budget reference:** **CHTR02**

**Budget proposal 2024/25 (£):** £50,000

**The following savings are included within this Theme:**

<b>Directorate Reference</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Budget Proposal</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget reduction</b>
PD19	Home to School Transport	Review the provision of discretionary/non-statutory transport services to ensure that we can afford to continue statutory provision.	£50,000

## Theme Narrative:

Transformation activity to manage the increasing demand for home to school transport services for children and young people within North Somerset. This programme will review and update our policies and approach to service delivery to maintain the provision of statutory services, whilst reducing the cost of transport services.

## Summary of changes:

This is a nominal saving against what represents a significant area of spend for the Council and where ongoing cost pressures due to both rising demand and cost increases, are no longer sustainable.

A piece of work is underway with consultants to determine how we make this saving, and we think there is potential for savings related to post-16 travel but we haven't yet engaged with relevant stakeholders or completed the work to identify the best options to reduce costs in the most equitable way.

When that work is completed by consultants an option paper will be presented to Corporate Leadership Team that will detail the opportunities to reduce costs of providing non-statutory services. Any changes should be part of a suite of measures that continue to offer a means of support to those continuing into further education with a focus on life skills and supporting pupil's independence alongside reducing the budget.

This EIA will be updated in spring 2024 with the outcomes from that work and engagement with stakeholders to enable reassessment and for it to be re-presented as part of the decision-making process.

**Is any of the proposals within this theme a continuation of a previous medium-term financial plan saving?**

Yes

**No**

**If yes, please insert reference number and year of assessment?**

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference

**If yes, please describe what steps you have taken to review the equality impacts from previous years?**

## 2. Customer equality impact summary

### Will the proposal have a disproportionate impact on any of these groups?

Insert X into one box per row, for impact level and type.

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low, N = None

+ = Positive, = = Neutral, - = Negative

Impact Level	Impact type						
	H	M	L	N	+	=	-
Disabled people (Including consideration of neurodiversity)		X					X
People from different ethnic groups				X			
Men or women (including those who are pregnant or on maternity leave)				X			
People who are LGBTQ+				X			
People on a low income			X				X
People in particular age groups		X					X
People in particular faith groups				X			
People who are married or in a civil partnership				X			
People who are undergoing gender reassignment				X			
Other specific impacts, for example: carers, parents, armed forces community, impact on health and wellbeing. Please specify: Parents			X				X

## 3. Explanation of customer impact

Changes to discretionary/non-statutory provision will affect those young people and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) that are not of statutory school age and those who are not entitled to free or subsidised transport. The impact on young people has been assessed as medium, as it may involve alternative modes of transport to that currently offered. Likely impacts may include additional travelling time or sharing

travel provision using open door commercial services (where appropriate). However, where children are enabled to travel independently this can have beneficial impacts in terms of building confidence, obtaining key life skills alongside potential health benefits where walking/cycling elements are also involved.

Parents on low incomes could be disproportionately affected by any changes that involve costs or contributions by parents, but mitigations already exist for those on low incomes such as the 16-19 year old bursary and discretion remains with the council to consider individual circumstances.

### **Please describe how you will communicate these changes to your customers**

Engagement with stakeholders will be undertaken to help identify and refine the options to achieve cost savings in the most equitable way.

If any changes to policy and procedures are made these will be published on NSC website and parents informed in writing well in advance if changes were to affect existing provision.

There is a statutory annual requirement for the council to publish any changes to policy by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

## **4. Staff equality impact summary**

**Are there any staffing implications for this proposal?** Yes **No**

### **Explanation of staff impact**

## **6. Review and Sign Off**

### **Service Manager Review**

Insert any service manager comments here:

**Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed?** **Yes** No

**If 'yes', when will the further assessment be completed?**

The initial draft of a full assessment will be completed in January 2024.

**Service Manager:** Gemma Dando

**Date:** 18 December 2023