



**Cumbria Transport
Infrastructure Plan**

**Equality Impact
Assessment**

January 2022

Report details

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1 Introduction

1.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is an evidence-based approach that helps organisations ensure their policies, practices, events and decision-making processes are fair and do not present barriers to participation or disadvantage any protected groups from participation. This covers both strategic and operational activities.
- 1.1.2 EIAs are intended to ensure that the potential effects of policy are understood by assessing the impacts on different groups and identifying any adverse impacts and the actions required to remove or mitigate them. They are based on evidence and reasoning and support openness and transparency in decision making.

2 Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan 2022–2037

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP) has been developed by Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership to set the policy framework for the role of transport and connectivity in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth in Cumbria for the period 2022–2037. It replaces the current Local Transport Plan 2011–2026 and is the Local Transport Plan for Cumbria.
- 2.1.2 The plan sets a vision for improving transport and infrastructure in Cumbria that provides for the needs of residents, businesses and visitors as well as respecting our special environment.
- 2.1.3 The plan is also about how Cumbria can support recovery from the pandemic and seeks to respond to the challenges of climate change; two key areas that will have significant implications for the future.
- 2.1.4 The CTIP has three strategic themes and nine associated strategic objectives. These are set out below.
- Clean and Healthy Cumbria
 - Cycling & Walking: Establish comprehensive active travel networks to increase the number of people walking and cycling across Cumbria.
 - Digital: Enhance digital connectivity to ensure more people and businesses have the access they require and to support innovation across transport networks.
 - Electric Vehicle & Transmission: Facilitate the delivery of electric vehicle and transmission and distribution infrastructure to support the decarbonisation of our transport networks and meet the needs of a growing economy.
 - Connected Cumbria
 - Rail: Achieve enhanced rail connectivity, through improved stations, services and rail infrastructure within Cumbria, for both local and long-distance journeys.
 - Road: Secure delivery of improvements and maintenance to our road networks and to complement the rollout of electric vehicles.
 - International: Grow the role of Cumbria's ports, airport and regional hubs to enhance wider international connectivity and economic performance.

- Community Cumbria
 - Bus: Establish innovative approaches to the delivery of new bus services and infrastructure, particularly within rural areas.
 - Towns: Enhance active and sustainable travel within the heart of our town centres making connectivity a core part of successful public spaces.
 - Integration: Secure the integration of transport modes, including integrated ticketing and journey planning to support travel choice and the drive to decarbonise our transport networks.

2.2 The CTIP EIA

2.2.1 The CTIP EIA assesses the CTIP's strategic objectives against the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act of 2010 (Age, Race, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Religion/Belief, Sexual Orientation, Marital Status, Disability, Pregnancy & Maternity).

2.2.2 Section 1 of the Equality Act also requires local authorities, when making decisions of a strategic nature, to have due regard to the desirability of exercising their functions in a way that reduces inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage. On this basis, in addition to the nine protected characteristics, the CTIP EIA includes assessment against socio-economic status, with particular focus on rurality & low-income households.

2.2.3 A bespoke assessment matrix has been developed with support from the County Council's Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Team, including the Equalities Lead. The matrix was developed to aid assessment of potential positive and negative effects of the strategic objectives of the CTIP against each of the protected characteristics/status. The matrix allows gaps and/or weaknesses to be identified and a response to be formulated.

2.2.4 The CTIP EIA has been undertaken by the CTIP Working Group, using the CTIP EIA Matrix and informed by the CTIP consultation responses, in consultation with the Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Team, including the Equalities Lead.

2.3 Key Impacts & CTIP Response

2.3.1 The CTIP EIA identified several positive and negative potential effects and the following key themes emerged.

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Inclusivity

2.3.2 In response, the CTIP has been amended to strengthen recognition of potential effects and requires these to be taken account of in associated strategy, plan, policy, process development, interventions and decisions. This includes greater emphasis on the importance of meeting the differing needs of residents, alongside more specific references to safety, accessibility and affordability.