



**Oxfordshire County Council**  
**Equalities Impact Assessment**

Community Outreach Active Travel

Procurement Exercise

May 2023

## Contents

Section 1: Summary details .....	3
Section 2: Detail of proposal.....	4
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics.....	6
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts.....	11
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts.....	12
Section 4: Review .....	13

## Section 1: Summary details

<b>Directorate and Service Area</b>	Public Health, Healthy Place Shaping
<b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Community Outreach Active Travel contract – procurement exercise
<b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b>	Existing function
<b>Summary of assessment</b> Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The Community Outreach Active Travel (COAT) contract includes an agreed amount of funding which is awarded to the successful candidate. They are then responsible for allocating pots of funding to individual projects in communities which actively improve residents' levels of active travel, physical activity and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>This assessment aims to show that the potential impacts of this procurement exercise and subsequent continuation of the service will be overwhelmingly positive. The projects delivered by the COAT programme actively target health inequalities by assigning funding to areas of known deprivation, or with community groups which are of a specific demographic which would benefit from engaging more with active travel.</p>
<b>Completed By</b>	John Lee
<b>Authorised By</b>	
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	04/05/2023

## Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The COAT programme is currently awarded on an annual basis and the existing provider, Active Oxfordshire, have worked with partners across Bicester, Witney and Oxford over the past year to deliver over 30 different active travel interventions, including bike libraries with schools, cycling groups for women and minority ethnic groups, health walks and many more.</p> <p>We are now undergoing the procurement process to renew this programme for a further three years from September 2023, using confirmed funds from Public Health reserves. This is the preferred delivery method because it will help to deliver sustained behaviour change and maintain continuity with those being reached.</p>
<p><b>Proposals</b></p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>Due to the current contract expiring in summer 2023 and the level of funding involved, a light touch procurement process is necessary to allow external organisations the chance to bid for the work. Following the approval of the business case in mid-May, we plan to run a 4-week tendering process followed by an in-house review of applications. The successful candidate will be informed ahead of a mobilisation period in the run-up to the contract starting in September 2023.</p> <p>This is the best course of action because it allows multiple parties to present how they will best use the funding and will give OCC the chance to appoint the person/s best-suited to the job.</p>
<p><b>Evidence / Intelligence</b></p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities</p>	<p>The existing provider (Active Oxfordshire) have compiled review reports which are shared with OCC. These detail the quantity and spread of people reached by the COAT projects and enable OCC to see how effective the programme is at delivering sustained behaviour change.</p> <p>The nature of the contract is such that by delivering active travel interventions, we are in turn reducing the reliance on car journeys, helping to improve air quality and making people more aware of their natural environment. All of this contributes to delivering on our climate commitments.</p>

<p>or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	
<p><b>Alternatives considered / rejected</b></p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>As part of the development of this procurement exercise and compiling the business case, a number of options were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do Nothing – this was considered with the sole benefit that it would free up Public Health funding to be used elsewhere, however this comes with several drawbacks which include failing to tackle health inequalities</li> <li>2. Continue to procure on annual basis – this has been proven successful in the past but the staff time and resource required each year to procure a new contract would have knock-on effects to the public</li> <li>3. Deliver the programme in-house – one option would be to rely on Active Travel colleagues to deliver the interventions but there may be issues with resourcing</li> <li>4. Procure on a three-year contract with the option for extending by a further one year – this is the preferred option as it will deliver sustained behaviour change and strengthen partner relationships further</li> </ol>

**Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics**

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The COAT programme targets specific age groups which would benefit the most from engaging in active travel. These include school-age children who might need to learn how to cycle as well as older residents who may suffer from isolation and physical inactivity – getting them involved in health walks can bring a host of benefits		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate
<b>Disability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The COAT programme has already delivered projects which are tailored to, or applicable to, people with disabilities or long term health conditions, such as e-trike lessons and self-guided walks around Cowley LTN. The programme will look to continue to strengthen its focus on activities for these groups.		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are no clear impacts on these groups from the existing contract but there is potential to integrate new projects encouraging physical activity in pregnant people and new parents in the future.			
<b>Race</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The COAT programme will help to improve physical activity in the county, benefitting residents from all ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>There is a complex association between levels of physical activity, area level deprivation and ethnicity. However, statistics show that those from minority ethnic groups and people living in areas of higher socio-economic deprivation are more likely to be inactive. COAT projects are chosen with health inequalities at the forefront, meaning that less active groups and geographical areas are more likely to receive funding.</p>		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate



<b>Sex</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The COAT programme has delivered a range of interventions specifically targeted at women. LTN Bikeability training has been offered to women of colour, JoyRiders conduct women-only groups, and Breeze Skills offer women-specific cycle sessions.</p> <p>Since women are less likely to engage with cycling, these examples of how COAT funding has been used show that we are positively impacting under-represented groups.</p>		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>We recognise that certain cultural barriers exist within active travel. For example, there are forms of religious dress which are impractical for cycling and people from certain groups feeling less confident engaging in active travel alone or in public.</p> <p>The COAT programme will aim discover more about the ways in which active travel can be promoted for everyone.</p>		<p>To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise</p>	<p>Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	---	--	---	--

### Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The COAT programme has an overarching theme of tackling health inequalities. This means the projects being funded will target residents living in areas of deprivation.</p> <p>People in lower socio-economic groups are more likely to be inactive and suffer the resulting poor health outcomes from long term inactivity.</p> <p>The COAT programme will work to narrow the gap between the more and the less deprived communities by providing equitable support to those in more deprived areas.</p>		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate

### Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

<b>Additional Wider Impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of Impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)</b>	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>Staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The COAT contract will broaden staff knowledge on what works well and what doesn't in terms of active travel projects. It will also further strengthen OCC and the successful candidate's ties with partners and community groups.		To be delivered by the successful candidate of this procurement exercise	Quarterly reviews between contract holder and OCC, together with ad hoc discussions where appropriate
<b>Other Council Services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Providers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Social Value <sup>1</sup></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<sup>1</sup> If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

## Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

<b>Review Date</b>	June 2024
<b>Person Responsible for Review</b>	John Lee, Health Improvement Practitioner
<b>Authorised By</b>	