



Section 4

Equality Analysis Toolkit

A601(M) – Major Maintenance
For Decision Making Items

Spring 2018

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

To carry out major maintenance of the A601(M) including maintenance of 4 bridges of Lancaster to maintain the highway network.

The A601(M) is a 1.3 mile (2.1km) Special Road in Lancashire, linking M6 junction 35 to the A6 north-east of Carnforth. The route provides access to the Truck Haven located on the junction of the A601(M) and A6, as well as Carnforth itself. The A601(M) also forms part of the official M6 motorway diversion route between junctions 35 and 36. Parts of central Carnforth has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

The proposed scheme includes refurbishment and repair of bridge structures (Brewers Barn West, Brewers Barn East and Elpha), the removal of Brewers Barn West (widening) bridge and the removal and replacement of Higher North Road bridge with an at-grade junction at Nether Beck. To facilitate the installation of the at-grade junction, the preferred scheme also proposes to despecialise the road. The A601(M) will also be fully resurfaced as a result of these works.

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?

As the proposal is to undertake highway works in a specific area, the works are likely to affect the local community and anyone travelling through the area.

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/gender
- 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?

The proposal could have particular impacts on certain groups of individuals sharing the protected characteristics.

Specific impacts that have been considered are as follows:

Those individuals sharing the protected characteristics of age, being either young or elderly, or disabled are more likely to utilise public transport. The route is not currently a public transport link so this does not apply here.

Those with the protected characteristics of disability, pregnant woman, elderly or young have been identified as vulnerable drivers who may suffer from increased driver stress during the works due to road works and increased journey times.

Race/ethnicity/nationality, religion of belief, sex/gender, sexual orientation and marriage or Civil Partnership are unlikely to be impacted by the works.

Question 4 – Engagement/Consultation

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

Lancashire County Council has invited comments from the following stakeholders regarding the proposals:

Lancaster City Council

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership

Attention was drawn to the need to carry out the works to protect parts of central Carnforth that has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Once funding is confirmed by DfT it is the intention to hold drop in sessions in the Carnforth Area and carry out an extensive leaflet drop in the affected area and provide information using Lancashire County Councils social media and local press.

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;

Transport restrictions will be implemented should the works not be carried out. The restrictions could disproportionately affect individuals sharing the protected characteristics as the alternative route would be through the centre of Carnforth bringing the effects into direct contact with more people sharing the protected characteristics than the proposed scheme.

Overall the proposals do not discriminate unlawfully, but neither do they advance equal opportunity or encourage participation in public life for those sharing a relevant protected characteristic. In terms of fostering good relations between those sharing a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, the proposals are neutral in this respect.

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?

None

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.

Following feedback received from the Stakeholders consulted in Question 4.

Attention was drawn to the need to carry out the works to protect parts of central Carnforth that has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Question 8 - Mitigation

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

It is vital that the network be maintained during the road closure required for the works to maintain the alternative route away from the centre of Carnforth. Existing traffic count information indicates that a reworking of the existing dual carriageway implemented for the duration of the works to will have minimal impact on journey times and will minimise the need for road closures.

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.

Lancashire County Council have fully assessed the reasons behind the proposals with the findings of our analysis.

Based on the current rate of deterioration the following restrictions will be required to be implemented:

- 2021 – Closure of A601(M) to abnormal loads
- 2022 – Closure to A601(M) to all HGVs, implement a 7.5t or even 3t weight restriction, permits for emergency vehicles
- 2025 – A601(M) closed to all vehicles

Not carrying out the works will have long term negative effects on the following

- Local business and tourism
- Increased journey times for road users
- People unable to maintain social lives
- Access to education and healthcare
- Access to local amenities

Question 10 – Final Proposal

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

The final proposal is to carry out major maintenance of the A601(M) highway network whilst minimising disruption to the free movement of the groups affected.

Question 11 – Review and Monitoring Arrangements

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

LCC will monitor road use before and after scheme delivery to ensure the network has been maintained as planned.

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Position/Role Senior Engineer – Design and Construction

Equality Analysis Endorsed by Line Manager and/or Service Head

Decision Signed Off By



Cabinet Member or Director



For further information please contact

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