
Report to: Transport and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9 March 2023

Subject: **Transport Consultations and EDI**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an update regarding “Equality, Diversity & Inclusion” (EDI) progress within consultation and engagement.

2. Information

What data do we collect?

- 2.1 Data is collected via the following methods:

- **YourVoice:** YourVoice is the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's online engagement hub. The hub hosts several interactive tools, including surveys, questions and answers (Q&As), quick polls, chat rooms and interactive maps. Anyone can register to follow areas of interest and to be kept informed of future developments. The registration process captures personal details, including names and contact details, together with optional EDI information. There are currently 2657 people registered. In the past year, the Communities, Consultation & Engagement (CC&E) team used YourVoice to:
 - Launch 47 consultations on Your Voice
 - Analyse around 20,000 survey responses, emails, letters and Q&As
 - Engage with hundreds of people via online webinars
 - And in that time, 142,000 people logged on as visitors to YourVoice
- **Face to Face ‘drop in’ events:** Drop in events provide the public the opportunity to find out more about the schemes and ask questions directly to the project team. Attendees are encouraged to register to YourVoice, or can leave their contact information with a member of the consultation team to stay informed via email updates or other methods. Most attendees do not have time to complete a full survey at the event, so paper copies are available to take

home and return via FREEPOST. The CC&E team engaged with around 5,000 people at public drop-in events in the last year.

- **Online and Paper Surveys: The CC&E team** support people to take part by offering versions of materials in different formats, including Easy Read, large print, language translations, and phone calls to provide information. Online surveys offer the option to register to YourVoice and paper surveys offer the option to add personal contact information (name, email, address or phone number) in order to keep informed about the schemes.
- **EDI questions:** Optional EDI questions, for use in surveys, have been developed via a participative process involving the Combined Authority's EDI staff representative group and approved by directors. These questions are asked to ensure our work reflects the diverse communities we serve, and helps us meet our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. Questions asked include:
 - What is your post code?
 - What is your sex?
 - Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?
 - How old are you?
 - What is your ethnic group?
 - Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?
 - How would you describe your sexual orientation?
 - What is your religion or belief?

The Combined Authority's approach to EDI, and further information on why we ask the 'About you' questions, can be viewed on the organisation's website and via this link: [Our team EDI approach is now online on the CA website.](#)

- **Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs)** The CC&E team support project teams to complete EqIAs for each scheme, to analyse and understand how our proposals, policies and decisions may affect people in our communities who use our services. EqIAs also help inform the consultation planning process and subsequent programme of engagement activity. An EqIA should:
 - identify any negative equality impact on any protected characteristic group and plan to eliminate or mitigate this impact as far as possible
 - consider how to support advancement of equality and promotion of good relations between different groups with protected characteristics

How EDI data is used

2.2 EDI data is being used to support our work with protected characteristic groups:

- Analyse how consultation opinions and issues vary for different groups
- Help inform and embed project EqIAs
- Identify gaps in response rates from protected characteristic groups

- Find the best ways to consult with those most impacted by our proposals
- Target promotions to achieve wider reach and depth in consultations
- Inform individuals as schemes progress through assurance and beyond

“Your Voice” Profile

2.21 Some demographic groups are less likely to register than others. The Your Voice registration profile is underrepresented for female, BME, and younger age groups, although reflects greater diversity in age range and disability status. By increasing registrations, we can promote our plans to more people, in turn increasing response rates and gathering more meaningful feedback.

- We are actively promoting YourVoice to under-represented groups and recent new users show more diversity (more younger, and more female people)
- Recent promotion of YourVoice has included:
 - Social media posts and polls, a promotional video
 - Internal promotion in colleague weekly emails
 - Contacting 500+ community group stakeholders
 - Credit card sized flyers – for face to face events
 - Advertising in newsletters (e.g. LEP newsletter and Metro newsletter)
 - Real time messages displayed at bus stops
 - Updated the Combined Authority’s website Consultation page to include more information about Your Voice and how to register
 - Updated the YourVoice site to explain more clearly what it is, how to feedback problems and added a clearer reporting page

Accompanying this report are two appendices regarding Halifax Bus Station as a case study of recent EDI work in consultation and engagement.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7. Staffing Implications

7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

8. External Consultees

8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

9. Recommendations

9.1 That the Committee notes the report and provides any feedback and comments.

10. Background Documents

None.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Halifax Bus Station Case Study Summary

Appendix 2: Statement of Community Involvement report