



# Equality Outcomes

April 2017

## 1. Background

Under the Equalities Act 2010 all public authorities are required to implement and publish Equality Outcomes and report on progress made towards achieving these outcomes. These progress reports must be completed every 2 years.

Guidance produced by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) suggests that outcomes should:

- Be based on recognised inequalities involving those with protected characteristics
- Build on and link to the three needs outlined in the general equality duty
- Be measurable and capable of reporting

The current set of Equality Outcomes which SWestrans works to are-

**EO1:** People who are elderly, disabled or living remotely, are better able to access our services.

**EO2:** Transport is affordable for all residents of Dumfries & Galloway including those who are elderly or disabled.

These Equality Outcomes were agreed by SWestrans Board and published in 2015.

An action plan was set out which detailed what actions needed to take place in order to meet the outcomes set.

## 2. Actions

The actions set for **EO1** were as follows-

- Ensure that more than 95% of population centres with over 200 residents are served by some means of public transport (Mon to Sat) to the nearest larger centre.
- The Thistle Card will be launched in January 2015. This is a region wide initiative which can be presented by passengers who wish the driver to be aware of any special needs they may have.
- SWestrans will print and distribute the 'Travelling with Dementia' leaflet.
- All buses will be compliant with the Equalities Act by January 2015 (other than those which have permitted exemptions).
- High kerbs will be installed at bus shelters and whenever possible.
- The Ring & Ride service will be maintained as a means of providing a more personal service which appeals to passengers who are more remote or who are likely to be older or who have disabilities.

SWestrans can confirm that all of the above actions in relation to **EO1** have been completed since 2015. However we will continue to monitor the actions above and ensure that the equality outcome is still being met as far as possible even if business needs change in the future.

The actions set for **EO2** were as follows-

- Participate in the National Entitlement Scheme and monitor passenger numbers making use of free bus passes.
- Ensure that fare levels are reasonable and encourage transport providers to offer discounts, season tickets and other financial incentives to encourage travel by public transport.

SWestrans do actively monitor free bus pass usage and work with transport operators to ensure fares are reasonable however work on this outcome is ongoing and as such we will continue with **EO2** as our equality outcome for the period 2017-2021.

### **3. Equality Outcomes 2017-2021**

For the period 2017-2021, in line with our Equalities duty as a public body SWestrans will work to achieve the following Equality Outcome-

**Transport is affordable for all residents of Dumfries & Galloway including those who are elderly or disabled.**

We will update on progress of this Equality Outcome by end April 2019.