



Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer

Organisation prepared for	Somerset Council		
Version	1	Date Completed	19/12/2022
Description of what is being impact assessed			
<p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is an important planning document which defines how and when local residents, community groups and stakeholders can be involved in the planning process, both in the consultation on planning applications for development and when we write new planning policy documents.</p> <p>The SCI is being prepared to consolidate the SCIs of the existing/former Somerset authorities to ensure that engagement in planning applications and new policy documents is done the same across the county following Vesting Day.</p>			
Evidence			
<p>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), Staff and/ or area profiles, should be detailed here</p>			
<p>The assessment of potential impact on protected groups from the SCI has been informed by demographic information and equalities analysis statistics for Somerset, available via Somerset Intelligence Partnership: http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk</p>			

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

No groups have been consulted on this EqIA at this stage. Full public consultation on draft SCI is planned, including consultation with Council equalities officers and representative organisations of protected groups.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration given in barriers of engaging the elderly in planning, specifically regarding lack of computer literacy, movement issues, blindness (eyesight), deaf. The range of consultation methods included in the SCI ensures that a method will suit everyone • Barriers of engaging the youth include a lack of knowledge or interest. The SCI utilises a lot of online consultation methods likely to suit the younger population as they do not have to go out of their way to access them 	□	⊗	□

Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration given to accessibility of venues events are held at to ensure all are able to access – mobility impairment • Documents will be available in different font or format overall 	□	⊗	□
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language may be a barrier. Translation box will be included on all planning policy consultation documents and adopted Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. 	□	⊗	□
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□

Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this stage of the process. 	□	⊗	□
Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rurality is a consideration in the methods included in the SCI. Barriers to engagement could include a lack or poor internet access and the location of events. This is mitigated by documents being available to view in person and a broad range of locations for events, and the use of local news to advertise the consultations. • Low income households may struggle to have access to the internet or travel to events. This is mitigated by the range of events – in person and online in a range of locations. 	□	⊗	□

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Initial EIA to be reviewed by Equalities Officer	Select date			□
Any necessary changes to be made following public consultation on SCI. EqIA will be available for comments and any made will be considered.	Select date			□
	Select date			□
	Select date			□
	Select date			□

	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

None at this stage

Completed by:	
Date	
Signed off by:	
Date	
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	