

Transformation, Income, and Saving Proposal No 33

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 County Council		
Version	V1	Date Completed	09/01/23
Description of what is being impact assessed			
The cessation of the pest control service which is currently available to residents in South Somerset			
Evidence			
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			
Pest control is a non-statutory, universal service available to all residents in South Somerset.			
Staff – An options appraisal has considered the approach to pest control and services available in other districts in Somerset. No other authority in Somerset provides a pest control service to the public. Anecdotal evidence received as part of the appraisal suggested that the impact of ceasing the service elsewhere has been negligible with no identified discernible impact on protected groups.			
Fees and charges data regarding concessionary rates. In 2020, a detailed review of fees and charges was undertaken. The review considered the actual cost of delivering the service and a comparison of the fees of other commercial operators. The review resulted in a significant increase in the fees for pest control treatments. The impact on customers in receipt of benefits was considered and a concessionary rate was agreed. The review also identified that means tested, concessionary rates were not available from local or national commercial operators.			

Service Data

User data tells us that as the number of households who use the service who qualify for the concessionary rate is only 13% (80 households) of customers, this equates to less than 1% of all households in the South Somerset area. Such a small number, therefore, tells us that households from Protected Characteristics that might experience a negative impact from ceasing the service would be such that the costs of mitigating these impacts could be considered disproportionate and unreasonable. For example 1% of residents aged over 65 and in receipt of Personal Independence Payment following an award by the DWP would equate to just 71 people (all people)

In 20/21, after operating with the new fee structure for one year, 13% of pest control business was delivered to customers eligible for the discounted rate. This equates to 80 out of a total of 616 visits.

Data regarding the reason/s for concession eligibility is not available. It has been assumed that age and disability are key factors in terms of receipt of benefits.

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

We have not consulted on specific protected groups as this is a universal service available to all.

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

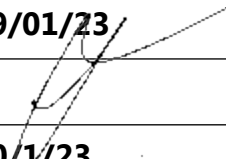

Summary of impact

**Negative
outcome**

**Neutral
outcome**

**Positive
outcome**

Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption that customers are more likely to be eligible for benefits and therefore, also eligible for the concessionary fee. 	☒	☐	☐
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption that customers with a disability are more likely to be eligible for benefits and therefore, also eligible for the concessionary fee. 	☒	☐	☐
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact 	☐	☒	☐
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact 	☐	☒	☐
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact 	☐	☒	☐
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact 	☐	☒	☐
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact 	☐	☒	☐

	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
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If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				
<p>Cessation of pest control service will have a negative impact as concessionary rate will no longer be available. Based on our evidence, this would only affect 13% (80 households) of customers. This equates to less than 1% of all households in the South Somerset area. The only way to mitigate this would be to continue to deliver the service. The option to continue the service is therefore considered to be unreasonable and disproportionate given the low numbers affected as demonstrated in the evidence section above.</p>				
Completed by:	Tim Cook & Vicki Dawson			
Date	09/01/23			
Signed off by:				
Date	20/1/23			
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	 Dave Crisfield 25th January 2023			
To be reviewed by: (officer name)				
Review date:				