



Transformation, Income, and Saving Proposal No 39

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

2

Date Completed

16/01/2023

Description of what is being impact assessed

The loss of physical newspapers (national) in libraries.

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

Increased use of enewspapers over past 2 years (c5,000 'checkouts' per month); and reduction in the number of physical visits to libraries. Financial data in relation to the costs of providing these resources (ie physical/electronically).

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

No public consultation – proposed change in response to the need for MTFP savings and reductions in service.

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"> National data shows that older generations are more likely to access physical newspapers. Removal of physical papers could negatively impact on this group. 	☒	☐	☐
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered disability we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	☐	☒	☐
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered gender reassignment we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	☐	☒	☐
Marriage and civil partnership	Having considered marriage & civil partnership we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact	☐	☒	☐

Pregnancy and maternity	Having considered pregnancy & maternity we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered race & ethnicity we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	□	⊗	□
Religion or belief	Having considered religion or belief we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered sex we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	□	⊗	□
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered sexual orientation we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	□	⊗	□
Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered these Other characteristics we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact 	□	⊗	□

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
Age related impacts. Tablets and free internet/wifi available at all Somerset libraries to enable supported online access via libraries staff & volunteers – both core libraries and Community Library Partnerships. 1000+ daily, weekly and monthly newspapers from over 100 countries (and in 60 languages), including 166 local, regional and national UK titles are available electronically.	01/01/2023	Darren Smart	Usage data Compliments & Concerns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Completed by:	Sue Crowley/Darren Smart
Date	16/01/2023
Signed off by:	
Date	
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	20.01.2023
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	