


Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer or www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment

Organisation prepared for (mark as appropriate)	 Somerset Council					
Version	V1				January 2025	
Description of what is being impact assessed						
<p>Devolution of services to Wells City Council (WCC) The following services will be devolved to WCC . Both WCC and SC are working towards a handover date of the operations by 1st June 2025. Asset transfers will follow dependent on legal capacity, but aim is for simultaneous transfer.</p> <p>A full list of the assets and services being devolved to WCC is available in Appendix 1 of the devolution report.</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>Somerset budget consultation Budget Consultation 2024/2025 - Somerset Council - Citizen Space- local services and outdoor spaces are important to the community, no likely difference to the Wells community, devolving services to WCC is a way of protecting those services for the community, quotes include: <i>'Offload certain areas to city councils, devolved responsibilities where city councils can increase council tax by a larger amounts'</i> <i>'Give money and autonomy to city councils to keep citys and villages maintained'</i></p>						

Overall SC is expecting no impacts to protected groups, and it is hoped that given the grounds work WCC are planning to deliver, there will be positive impacts to the wider community, including protected groups as part of this service devolution. No services are being stopped as part of this process.

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

During the devolution process SC have been working hard with WCC to understand the services they are willing to take on. WCC is a well established council and have the structure and organisation in place to take on these services. They are committed to delivering the same services as SC have previously, and their intention is to build on the current provision offered by SC and improve the open space maintenance offering.

WCC are have approved a budget for implementation and annual revenue costs through their full council. They have also appointed experienced and suitable qualified staff to undertake delivery of the devolved services.

The city council have also been open with talking us through their budgets to give further confidence they understand the ask on them

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
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<p>Age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the City Council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to BTC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the city council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the city council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the city council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the city council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Race and ethnicity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. • To facilitate the devolution of services the city council will be seeking in an increase in the precept they charge as part of the annual council tax bill. Whilst it will have a no impact if a resident is in receipt of full benefits, anyone on partial benefits or no benefits will see an increase in the amount of council tax they have to pay. Some income generating assets are being devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. 	□	⊗	□
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. 	□	⊗	□
Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring services to WCC will not result in a loss of any existing service, so no negative impacts based on existing services. The city council are committed to working with their local community, as they currently do, so there is every opportunity for the devolution process to bring positive outcomes. 	□	⊗	□
Other, e.g. carers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to deliver these services WCC will need to raise their precept. This could bring negative impacts to individuals and families on low incomes where they are not on benefits or only on partial benefits. Some income generating assets are being 	□	⊗	□

	devolved to WCC to support the cost of running services which will partially offset a precept rise.			
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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
There are no actions.				<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

N/A

Completed by:	Jonathan Stevens
Date	7/1/2025
Signed off by:	
Date	
Equality Lead sign off name:	
Equality Lead sign off date:	
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	

Review date: