

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Before completing this EqIA please ensure you have read the EqIA Guidance Notes

Title	Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement		
Date assessment started:	02/01/2020	Version No:	2
		Date of completion:	24/02/2020

Type of Strategy, Policy, Project or Service:

Is this Equality Impact Assessment (please put a cross in the relevant box)

Existing:		Changing, update or revision:	
New or proposed:	x	Other (please explain):	

Is this Equality Impact Assessment (please put a cross in the relevant box)

Internal:	x	External:		Both:	
-----------	---	-----------	--	-------	--

Report Created By:

Name:	Frances Summers
Job Title:	Senior Planning Policy Officer
Email address:	Frances.summers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Members of the assessment team:	Frances Summers, Ed Gerry, Philip Reese

Step 1: Aims

What are the aims of your strategy, policy, project or service?
The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to provide a framework to be used by planning department that sets out how planning will engage with stakeholders.
What is the background or context to the proposal?
The Council is preparing a Dorset Council Local Plan. As part of this process, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/18 dictates that the Local Planning Authority must have in place an adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Step 2: Intelligence and Communication

What data, information, evidence and research was used in this EqIA and how has it been used to inform the decision-making process?
Dorset Insight - Statistics and census information on Dorset Council website at: https://apps.geowessex.com/insights/AreaProfiles/UnitaryAuthority/dorset-council
What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?

Age:

With 28.6% of Dorset's population over 65 years of age, we have a considerably higher population of older people than England and Wales at 18.2%. 55.4% of our population are of working age and 15.9% are aged 15 or below.

Population	Total	Percentage	England and Wales
All persons	376,480	-	59,115,810
All males	184,100	48.9%	49.4%
All females	192,380	51.1%	50.6%
0-15 years	59,930	15.9%	19.1%
16-64 years	208,740	55.4%	62.5%
65+ years	107,810	28.6%	18.3%

Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by age.

Disability:

Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Across the Dorset Council area 8% of the population has day to day activities that are limited a lot and 11% have day to day limited activities a little (*Source: Census 2011, ONS*).

Ethnicity:

The current population statistics for the Dorset Council area indicate that the population is predominantly White British (95.6%). However, the overall statistic for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) of 4.4% with 1.7% of the population not having English as their mother tongue. However it is unclear whether this is representative of the entire Dorset area and how much regional variation there is in certain parts of the Dorset area.

Race & Ethnicity	%
White British & Northern Irish	95.6
BME (Black and Minority Ethnic population)	4.4

Main language not English	1.7%
---------------------------	------

Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by ethnicity.

98.3% of Dorset's residents aged 3 and over have recorded English as their main language in the 2011 Census. This contrasts with a figure of 92% for England and Wales. Over 6,000 Dorset residents, English is not their first language. Where English is not the main language spoken 78 other languages feature across the County as resident's main

language, some in very small numbers. Where English is not the main language spoken, Polish is recorded with the next highest number 1,457 in Dorset, followed by German 429, all other Chinese 344 and Nepalese 292.

Religion:

25.4% of Dorset residents identify as having no religion and 65.1% of residents are Christian. The five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute 1.5% of Dorset's residents' religious beliefs. These groups are concentrated in Dorset's towns e.g. Weymouth has just over 300 residents of Muslim faith. There are small areas of the county with relatively high proportions of people from minority religions. Tarrant Launceston and Tarrant Monkton for example have 7% and 4% of the population who are Hindu and 3% and 2% who are Buddhist. This reflects the significant Ghurkha community based in and around Blandford Camp.

Religion	%
Christian	65.1
Non-Christian	1.5
No religion	25.4
Religion not stated	8

Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by religion.

Deprivation and accessibility

Rural and social isolation creates barriers for communities to access services. Ensuring people can access planning online would help alleviate this.

15.2% of households do not have a car or van.

What engagement or consultation has taken place as part of this EqIA?

Consultation took place between 21 June 2019 and Friday 2 August 2019. All consultees that were on the previous planning policy databases from the former district areas were contacted as well as general and specific consultees. The consultation asked if people agreed or disagreed with the statement and why and what changes would make it agreeable. People were able to respond via hard copy forms or online via a snap survey. 165 people responded.

Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?

No.

How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?

Those who responded will be informed of the adoption of the Statement of Community involvement.

Step 3: Assessment

Who does the service, strategy, policy, project or change impact?

- If your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option. Please cut and paste the template accordingly.

For each protected characteristic please choose from the following options:

- Please note in some cases more than one impact may apply – in this case please state all relevant options and explain in the ‘Please provide details’ box.

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups • Significant positive impact on a small proportion of protected characteristics groups
Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disproportionate impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups • Significant disproportionate impact on a small proportion of protected characteristic groups.
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change/ no assessed a significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Age:	Positive
What age bracket does this affect?	All ages
Please provide details:	<p>All ages should be able to give opinions as planning can affect everyone.</p> <p>The SCI states that we will use online and hard copy methods for communicating. For instance, to communicate with those who use internet, we need to provide online access to material in an easy to use format. We should also publicise this via social media. To communicate effectively with the under 15's we should ensure that we engage with school age children by making use of school newsletters or events for strategic matters.</p> <p>The SCI also states that all communication will be written in plain English.</p> <p>For those without access to the internet or without the skills to access the internet we will advertise the use of Digital Champions.</p> <p>To communicate effectively we should make use of both hard and soft copies of our material. As we are trying to move towards a paperless system which is better for the environment, we can provide hard copies upon request.</p> <p>Due to the methods proposed for engaging with the public and stakeholders, it is unlikely that any particular age group will be omitted from responding.</p>

Disability:	Positive
Please provide details:	To ensure they are able to engage we should make large print and audio versions of our material available upon request. Consultation events should be held in locations with disabled access. Due to this it is unlikely that negative impacts will occur.
Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication are unlikely to impact on any particular gender identity or gender reassignment.
Pregnancy and maternity:	Positive
Please provide details:	As planning will host events in accessible locations and will provide online materials it is unlikely to impact on pregnant women or anyone on maternity or paternity leave.
Race and Ethnicity:	Positive
Please provide details:	The Statement of Community Involvement states the Council will make material available in alternative languages upon request. The Council will engage with Dorset Race Equality Council and Kushti Bok a Gypsy and Traveller led organisation. Due to this there is unlikely to be an impact on any race or ethnicity.
Religion or belief:	Neutral
Please provide details:	To ensure we communicate effectively with everyone we should avoid places of worship when hosting events.
Sexual orientation:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on any particular sexual orientation.
Sex:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on any particular sex.
Marriage or civil partnership:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on those married or in a civil partnership.

Carers:	Neutral
Please provide details:	Information will be available online so for carers perhaps unable to attend events or meetings, they will still have the ability to engage fully in the planning process. The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on carers.

Rural isolation:	Positive
Please provide details:	Due to providing material online or requested in hard copy and hosting events in accessible areas where public transport is available it is unlikely to negatively impact on anyone experiencing rural isolation.

Single parent families:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on single parent families.

Poverty (social & economic deprivation):	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on poverty.

Military families/veterans:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on military families or veterans.

Step 4: Action Plan

Provide actions for **positive**, **negative** and **unclear** impacts.

If you have identified any **negative** or **unclear** impacts, describe what adjustments will be made to remove or reduce the impacts, or if this is not possible provide justification for continuing with the proposal.

Issue	Action	Person(s) responsible	Deadline	How will it be monitored?
Lack of computer skills	Advertise use of Digital Champions to help people get online and keep in contact with planning	Frances Summer	On going	As we monitor our consultations and engagements
Impact on religious beliefs	To ensure we communicate effectively with everyone we should avoid places of worship when hosting events and be mindful of religious beliefs or events when organising consultation events. Place this into consultation strategy rather than SCI.	Frances Summer	September 2020	As we monitor our consultations and engagements
Underrepresented groups	Monitor participants of planning policy consultations where possible to identify under-represented groups and to adjust the strategy accordingly	Frances Summer	Following every consultation	As we monitor our consultations and engagements

Step 5: EqlA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA:	Frances Summers	Date:	24/02/2020
Equality Lead:	Susan Ward-Rice	Date:	06/03/2020
Equality & Diversity Action Group Chair	Rick Perry	Date:	10/03/2020