

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

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

<b>Title</b>	Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement		
<b>Date assessment started:</b>	02/01/2020	<b>Version No:</b>	1
		<b>Date of completion:</b>	

### Type of Strategy, Policy, Project or Service:

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

Existing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changing, update or revision:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New or proposed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please explain):	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Internal:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	External:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both:	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Report Created By:

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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 (SCI) is to provide a framework to be used by planning department that sets out how the planning service will engage with stakeholders re planning matters.

#### 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>) requires that the Council has adopted a 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, Dorset has a considerably higher population of older people than England and Wales at 18.2%. 55.4% of Dorset's population are of working age and 15.9% are aged 15 or below.

## Population

# 376,480

Total persons

			Comparators
	Total	Percentage	England and Wales
<b>All Persons</b>	376,480	-	59,115,810
<b>All Males</b>	184,100	48.9%	49.4%
<b>All Females</b>	192,380	51.1%	50.6%
<b>0-15 yrs</b>	59,930	15.9%	19.1%
<b>16-64 yrs</b>	208,740	55.4%	62.5%
<b>65+ yrs</b>	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.

**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.

# 95.6%

White British

# 4.4%

BME (black and minority ethnic population)

# 1.7%

Main language not English

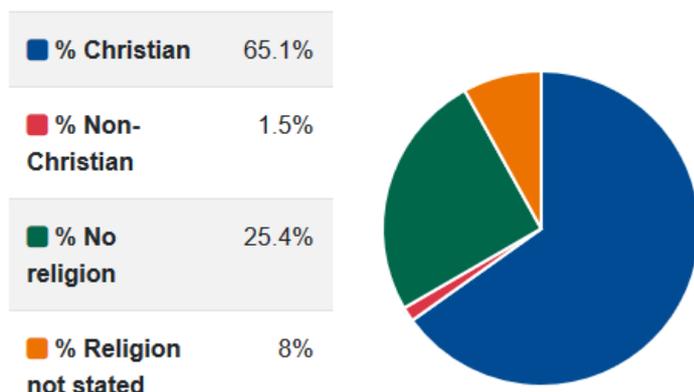
*Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by ethnicity.*

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. For 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**



*Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by religion.*

**Deprivation and accessibility**

Eleven areas in Dorset are in the top 20% most deprived nationally and the least deprived areas are in the east of the council.

Rural and social isolation creates barriers for communities to access services.

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/borough council areas were contacted as well as general and specific consultees.

**Is further information needed to help inform this proposal?**

No.
<b>How will the outcome of consultation be fed back to those who you consulted with?</b>
Those who responded to the consultation on the draft SCI 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"> <li>• Positive impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups</li> <li>• Significant positive impact on a small proportion of protected characteristics groups</li> </ul>
Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disproportionate impact on a large proportion of protected characteristic groups</li> <li>• Significant disproportionate impact on a small proportion of protected characteristic groups.</li> </ul>
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change/ no assessed a significant impact of protected characteristic groups</li> </ul>
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.</li> </ul>

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 the working age 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 young people the Council will 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>Most people have access to the internet either via smartphone or computer, however, there are still people who do not have access.</p> <p>To communicate effectively we should make use of both hard and soft copies of our material. We are trying to move towards a paperless system which is better for the environment. In some</p>

	<p>instances the Council may be able to 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>
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Disability:	Positive
Please provide details:	To ensure all groups of society are able to engage with the planning process the Council will consider making large print documents and audio versions of our material available upon request. Planning events should also be held in locations with disabled access. Due to these measures it is unlikely that negative impacts will occur.

Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The adoption of the SCI is 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 SCI states the Council will make material available in alternative languages upon request. 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	Neutral
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partnership:	
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:	The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on carers.
Rural isolation:	Positive
Please provide details:	Due to providing material online, providing hard copy documents at certain locations, or on request, and hosting events in accessible areas where public transport is available it is unlikely that the adoption of the SCI will 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: Acton 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?
Impact on religious beliefs	To ensure we communicate effectively with the whole community we should avoid places of worship when hosting public events relating to planning. Place this into consultation strategy rather than SCI.	Frances	September 2020	As we monitor our consultations and engagements.

## Step 5: EqIA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA:	Frances Summers	Date:	02/01/2020
Equality Lead:		Date:	
Relevant Focus Groups*:		Date:	
Directorate Board Chair:		Date:	

\* To include Diversity Action Groups

Please send this completed EqIA to Equality Leads:

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