



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template

Before completing the EQIA please have a look at the Dorset Council style guide and also use the accessibility checker to make sure your document is easy for people of all abilities to read.

Some key tips

- avoid tables and charts, if possible please provide raw data
- avoid pictures and maps if possible.
- avoid using bold, italics or colour to highlight or stress a point
- when using numbering or bullet points avoid using capitals at the beginning unless the name of something
- date format is dd month yyyy (1 June 2021)
- use clear and simple language
- where you need to use technical terms, abbreviations or acronyms, explain what they mean the first time you use them
- if using hyperlinks, make sure the link text describes where the link goes rather than 'click here' Please note equality impact assessments are published on the Dorset Council website

Before completing this form, please refer to the supporting guidance. The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to consider the equality implications of your policy, strategy, project or service on different groups of people including employees of Dorset Council, residents and users of our services and to consider if there are ways to proactively advance equality.

Where further guidance is needed, please contact the Inclusion Champion or the Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

1. Initial information

Community Governance Review of the parishes of Shipton Gorge and Loders.

2. Is this a (please delete those not required):

New project

3. Is this (please delete those not required):

External (residents, communities, partners)

4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

The review will seek residents' views on the parish boundaries of Shipton Gorge and Loders following which members will determine the appropriate boundaries for the 2 parishes taking into account the relevant legislation, guidance and residents' views ensuring that boundaries and governance arrangements are effective and appropriate.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

On 7 July 2025, Dorset Council received a petition seeking a review of part of the boundary between the parishes of Shipton Gorge and Loders. Following receipt of a petition, the council has a duty to undertake a review which must be concluded within 1 year of receipt of the petition ie 6 July 2026.

At its meeting on 14 July 2022, Dorset Council agreed to change of the parish boundary between these parishes following no adverse comments from either parish council or any local residents, and a related change to Dorset Council's ward boundaries was subsequently made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to ensure that the parish and ward boundaries were coterminous.

Local residents have since raised concerns about the changes to the parish boundaries as they do not believe the current arrangements reflect community identity and have petitioned Dorset Council for a further review, asking that the boundary be returned to its previous line prior to the change that took effect in 2024.

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g national statistics, employee data):

Area profile information from the Data and Insight for Dorset pages of Dorset Council's website have been used as sources for this Equality Impact Assessment. The information for Loder Parish can be found [here](#) and the information for Shipton Gorge can be found [here](#).

7. What did this tell you?

The information available does not identify any equality impact that a change of boundary would have on any groups of people.

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

Information available on the Dorset Council website has been utilised to prepare this assessment as well as advice from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team.

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

As part of the review process, public consultation will be undertaken including direct communication with the lead petitioner, parish councils, the relevant Dorset councillors for the areas affected, the local member of parliament, the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council and any other local interest groups that may be identified. The review will also consider planned development in the area for the five-year period from the date of the review. Whilst we recognise the number of properties of both parishes equates to approximately 494, any changes agreed would only have a direct impact on 18 properties so it is not believed that a full assessment is needed but the Council will consult with the whole parish.

Is an EQIA required?

This project does not require a EqIA because the change to the parish boundary will not have a direct impact on any of the protected characteristics groups.

The parishes represent all their residents so there is no specific group impacted.

There will be no impact on anyone with a disability as a result of the Community Governance Review. Public engagement and consultation for the Review will be carried out using a variety of methods to ensure everyone has access to the same information and equal opportunities to engage and respond. Information as well as being online will be published on the local parish notice boards and alternative formats of the consultation will be available either online or in paper format. Free computer facilities are available at the libraries and council offices which could be used to complete the consultation form online. Support if required around digital access can be provided by digital champions and support to complete a paper form will be available from the Electoral Services Team.

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA: Jacqui Andrews, Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services

Officers involved in completing the EqIA: None

Date of completion: 26 September 2025

Version Number: 1

EqIA review date: N/A

Equality Lead Sign Off: James Palfreyman-Kay, 26 September 2025