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

Name of the policy, project, strategy, project or service being assessed:

Chesil Cove Seawall Improvements Scheme: Outline Business Case and proposed scheme delivery.

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

A new capital infrastructure project outline business case detailing the funding and technical arrangements for the refurbishment, strengthening and protection of an existing coastal defence constructed in 1965.

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

Both internal and external. The project requires internal governance, funding and procurement decisions and has external implications for residents, businesses, visitors, road users, public-right-of-way users and other stakeholders.

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

Is seeking Cabinet approval of the Outline Business Case for the Chesil Cove Slope Stabilisation Scheme, also known as the Chesil Cove Seawall Improvements Scheme. Approval is also being sought for the Council's capital contribution, which is required to secure external funding and enable the scheme to progress through detailed design, statutory approvals, procurement and construction.

The scheme is intended to reduce the risk of coastal erosion and reactivation of the West Weares landslide system. The preferred option comprises refurbishment and strengthening of the existing seawall, installation of new steel sheet piles and construction of a protective rock revetment to prevent undermining and dissipate wave energy.

The intended outcomes are to:

- maintain the existing coastal defence line;
- reduce the risk of damage to homes, businesses and community infrastructure;
- reduce the risk of disruption to the A354, the only highway connection between Portland and the mainland;
- maintain public access and community connectivity wherever reasonably practicable; and
- improve long-term resilience to coastal erosion, sea-level rise and severe storms.

The scheme is expected to provide broad community benefits. Detailed design and construction arrangements will be developed regarding accessibility, temporary access restrictions and the needs of people who may be disproportionately affected by disruption.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

The existing seawall at Chesil Cove was constructed in 1965 to protect the base of the West Weares landslide system from coastal erosion. Investigations undertaken during development of the OBC have identified significant structural deterioration, ongoing movement and an increasing risk of failure as a result of beach lowering, coastal erosion and the impacts of climate change. Without intervention, failure of the seawall could allow renewed marine erosion at the base of the slope and potentially trigger reactivation of the West Weares landslide system.

The consequences of failure could be significant. Approximately 51 residential properties, commercial premises, public rights of way, beach huts and community facilities would be placed at risk. Of particular concern is the potential impact on the A354, which is the sole highway route connecting Portland to the mainland and provides access for residents, businesses, emergency services and HMP Portland.

Evidence gathering and engagement

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

The seawall has been inspected and maintained for many years. Recent inspections, coastal process studies and geotechnical investigations have identified signs of deterioration, structural movement, beach lowering and foundation exposure.

Expert consultants were commissioned to undertake the necessary pre-OBC surveys, investigations and analysis, eventually leading to a preferred option within the OBC.

Three rounds of community engagement have been undertaken during preparation of the OBC, covering the condition of the seawall, the options considered and the emerging preferred option.

7. What did this tell you?

The OBC highlights that the southern section of the seawall is particularly vulnerable and may fail during a future significant storm event if major improvement works are not undertaken.

The OBC considered a broad range of options and identified a preferred option involving structural strengthening of the seawall, installation of new sheet piles and construction of a protective rock revetment. This option was determined to offer the

most effective balance of technical performance, environmental considerations, affordability and value for money.

During community engagement, some concern has been expressed regarding the effect of rock armour on beach amenity and access to the sea. These issues will continue to be considered during detailed design, including the shape of the revetment, the treatment of its northern termination and opportunities to retain appropriate access.

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

Three rounds of community engagement have been undertaken during development of the Outline Business Case. The engagement covered:

- the existing condition and role of the seawall;
- the risk of coastal erosion and landslide reactivation;
- the potential engineering options;
- the emerging preferred option; and
- potential implications for access, beach amenity and use of the frontage.

Engagement has included local residents, businesses and users of the Chesil Cove frontage. Consultation or technical engagement has also taken place with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Dorset Council Planning Authority, the Marine Management Organisation, Portland Town Council, Crown Estate interests and relevant environmental and World Heritage Site stakeholders.

Feedback has identified particular concerns regarding the effect of the proposed rock revetment on beach amenity and access to the sea. These matters will be considered further during detailed design. Continued engagement will be undertaken before construction, including engagement on access, temporary closures, traffic management and construction disruption.

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

Yes. Further information will become available as the project progresses through detailed design, statutory approvals and construction planning. The equality-relevant information still to be developed includes:

- the permanent pedestrian and recreational access arrangements;
- any changes to access to the seawall, beach or sea;
- temporary public-right-of-way closures and diversion routes;
- accessibility of temporary routes;
- the construction traffic and delivery strategy;
- access to nearby homes, businesses and community facilities;
- the duration and timing of noise, traffic and access disruption;
- the format and accessibility of public communications; and
- feedback from continued community and stakeholder engagement.

The equality screening will be reviewed when this information is available and before construction begins. A full EqIA will be completed if the emerging design or construction arrangements identify a potentially significant or disproportionate adverse effect on a protected group that cannot be adequately mitigated.

Is an EQIA required?

Not every proposal will need an EqIA. The data and research should inform your decision whether to continue with this EqIA. If you decide that your proposal does not need an EqIA, please answer the following question:

This policy, strategy, project or service does not require a EqIA because (provide details):

A proportionate equality screening assessment has been undertaken using the information currently available from the Outline Business Case, technical studies and community engagement. The screening has not identified any likely significant, disproportionate or discriminatory adverse effects on people who share a protected characteristic or on the additional groups recognised by Dorset Council.

The current decision concerns approval of the Outline Business Case, allocation of capital funding and progression of the project into detailed design and statutory approvals. It does not change eligibility for, or access to, a council service, introduce a new policy affecting particular groups, or remove an existing service or facility.

The scheme is intended to provide a broad public benefit by reducing the risk of coastal erosion and landslide reactivation affecting homes, businesses, community assets, public rights of way and the A354, which is the only highway connection between Portland and the mainland. Maintaining the resilience of this route is expected to benefit the community generally and may be particularly important to disabled and older people, people with caring responsibilities, those without access to private transport and people who rely on the route to reach employment, education, healthcare and other essential services.

Some temporary effects may arise during construction, including changes to pedestrian access, use of the public right of way and beach, traffic movements, noise and access to nearby businesses. The detailed nature and extent of these effects are not yet known because the project remains at Outline Business Case stage. These matters will be considered through detailed design, planning, environmental assessment, traffic and access planning and continued community engagement. Reasonable and proportionate mitigation will be incorporated into the design and construction arrangements where necessary.

On the evidence currently available, these potential temporary effects do not justify completion of a full EqIA at this stage. A full EqIA will be completed if the design, consultation or construction planning identifies a potentially significant or disproportionate effect on a protected group that cannot be appropriately addressed through normal design and project mitigation measures.

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different protected characteristics.

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	• the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	• protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	• no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	• not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age		
Disability		
Care Experience		
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity		
Marriage or civil partnership		
Pregnancy and maternity		
Race and Ethnicity		

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Religion and belief		
Sex (consider men and women)		
Sexual orientation		
People with caring responsibilities		
Rural isolation		
Socio-economic deprivation		
Single parents		
Armed forces communities		

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA:

Officers involved in completing the EqIA:

Date of completion:

Version Number:

EqIA review date:

Equality Lead Sign Off:

Next Steps:

- the EqIA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.
- EqIA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to Diversity and Inclusion Officer