



Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan
Equality Impact Assessment
(Pre-submission Consultation)



June 2018

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Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan Policy Impacts – Equality Impact Assessment

What is the title of the strategy, policy, service or review

1. **Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan (BRNP) first draft version**

2. **Which officers are involved in the EqlA?** Frances Summers, Planning Policy Officer

3. **Date of assessment** June 2018

4. **What are you impact assessing?** Policies in the BRNP final draft version.

5. **Existing/new/ changing/revision** New

6. **Other (additional information)** None

What are the aims and objectives of the plan and which Corporate priorities are they designed to meet?

Relevant corporate priorities

7. All of the Purbeck District Council corporate priorities and targets for 2016 – 2021 are relevant to the BRNP:
 - Protecting and enhancing the local environment
 - Meeting the housing needs of local people
 - Improving the local economy and infrastructure
 - Enhancing local communities and involvement
 - Being an efficient and effective council

Vision and objectives of the plan

8. The BRNP sets out what the people of Bere Regis wish their parish to be like in the years to 2017 and beyond. The BRNP vision provides a summary of the aspirations for the village:

“Our vision is to sustain a safe and lively parish community, centred on the village”.

9. The BRNP sets out a number of objectives to achieve the vision:

- Facilitate the development of new housing in sufficient quantity to meet local demand, with a range of affordable, shared ownership, and market properties, designed to fit well with the local streetscape and blend with the vernacular architecture.
- Support and sustain existing social and sporting facilities, and to create a new Community Hall designed to enhance and enrich the lives of residents.
- Support existing and new employment opportunities in the parish, particularly by encouraging the establishment of businesses in the proposed commercial area.
- Protect and enhance the environment including public rights of way.

Who will the BRNP have an impact on e.g. public, visitors, staff, members, and partners?

10. The main impact of the pre-referendum BRNP will be on:

- Bere Regis residents;
- Bere Regis service users; and
- Businesses operating in Bere Regis and the surrounding areas.

Are there any potential barriers to implementing changes to the plan, e.g. capacity or financial issues?

11. None are anticipated.

Who will be involved in implementing the plan?

12. The plan has been prepared by the BRNP Group, working closely with officers at Purbeck District Council, who support the content of the first draft plan.
13. Officers have provided the BRNP Group with advice on plan content, communication style and the format of the plan which is written in plain English, jargon free and supplemented with appropriate images.

What data do you already have, broken down by equality strands, about your service users or the people your plan will have an impact on?

Population

14. The population of Bere Regis is currently around 1,775¹.

Age profiles

¹ Bere Regis town profile: <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/Parish/bere-regis>

15. Almost 24.8% of the population are aged 65 and over, which is lower than the Dorset average of 28.3%¹.
16. 15.3%¹ of people in Bere Regis are 16 years and under compared to the Dorset average of 15.9%¹.

Ethnic groups

17. 97.9%¹ of the Bere Regis population are White British with 2.1%¹ from Black and minority ethnic groups. Comparable data for Dorset is 95.5%² and 4.5%².

Socio-economic classifications

18. 0.7% of the Purbeck population claim housing/council tax benefit² (data only available at District level).

Access

19. 11.5%¹ of Bere Regis households do not own a car or van compared to 15.5%¹ across Dorset.

Type of housing

20. The average Bere Regis house price is £417,167 for a detached property and £259,458 for a terraced property³.
21. 58.8% of Bere Regis homes are owner occupied, 20.2% are social rented and 18.2% are private rented¹.

Economic activity

22. Almost 16% of the population is retired².

Why undertake an EqIA?

23. Purbeck District Council is required to undertake EqIA of its policies, plans and strategies to ensure that they do not discriminate against any group or individual in the community. The duty to undertake EqIA arises from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. Following the referendum of the LMNP, Purbeck District Council will formally 'make' or adopt the plan as part of the Council's Local Development Plan. As such, the policies within the LMNP must be subject to an EQIA.
24. Previous EqIAs undertaken in Purbeck have included a range of equalities issues as required by law. To incorporate EqIAs into the plan-making process, we also need to take into account some of the wider issues of social inequalities, in particular rural isolation and related deprivation, for example fuel poverty. Therefore the following nine equality areas are used in a matrix to determine whether the LMNP policies have potential implications in relation to: age (**Ag**), disability (**D**), ethnicity (**E**), faith or belief (**F**), gender (**G**), gender reassignment (**GR**), sexual orientation (**SO**), social inequalities (**SI**), rural isolation (**RI**). The

² Dorset Statistics: <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/District/dorset>

³ Right Move: <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/Bere-Regis.html>

matrix identifies where the policies are compatible, have potential conflict or likely conflict with the equality areas.

Which BRNP policies are subject to the EqIA?

25. The following first draft BRNP policies are subject to the EqIA:

- BR1 Settlement Boundaries
- BR2 Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
- BR3 Nitrogen Mitigation
- BR4 Bere Regis Groundwater
- BR5 Noise Attenuation
- BR6 Affordable Housing Tenure
- BR7 Residential Development
- BR8 North Street Employment
- BR9 Community Facilities and Services
- BR10 Local Green Space

EqIA of the Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Issues in relation to:	Settlement Boundaries	SANG	Nitrogen Mitigation	Groundwater	Noise Attenuation	Affordable Housing Tenure	Residential Development	North Street Employment	Community Facilities and Services	Local Green Space
Age	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Disability	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Ethnicity	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Faith of belief	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Gender	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Gender Reassignment	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Sexual Orientation	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Social Inequalities	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible
Rural isolation	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible

Comments on the EqIA

26. In undertaking the assessment, it is important to note that existing adopted policies in the PLP1 will continue to apply to Bere Regis even when the BRNP is 'made' unless the Neighbourhood Plan has specifically identified removal of an adopted policy. The status of these policies is also taken into consideration in the EqIA. It is also important to bear in mind that the Local Plan Review and other plans prepared by the District Council will address a range of policies that are not included in the BRNP. For example, options to meet the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople in accordance with the equality area of ethnicity are to be addressed through the local plan.
27. The BRNP aims to 'sustain a lively parish community, centred on the village', by facilitating a range of new housing to suit the needs of the plan area, support community facilities to enrich the lives of the residents, support existing and new employment opportunities and to enhance and protect the environment. Bere Regis is mainly a dormitory town for Poole/Bournemouth conurbation and Dorchester, however the plans vision and objectives will enhance the village's self-sufficiency and reduce the need for residents to travel elsewhere. These improvements will also serve to reduce existing inequalities and rural isolation for those who do not benefit from public or private transport. For example, for disabled people, older people and young people without access to cars or a regular bus service. This is why all of the BRNP policies score well in terms of compatibility with issues of age, disability, social inequalities and rural isolation.
28. Support to retain and expand the safeguarded employment area is compatible with all of the equality areas. In particular it accords with the additional development within the village as it would reduce the need for the residents to travel out of the village. Without such the plan would conflict with a number of equality areas in terms of access to suitable transport and service/ facility provisions.
29. The plans emphasis on important open spaces, the SANG and the European protected sites are particularly welcomed and are compatible with a range of equality areas providing safe, sustainable and pleasant environments for the community to live amongst.

EQIA recommendations

30. All of the BRNP policies assessed in the EQIA were compatible with the equality areas. However, this assessment assumes that the adopted policies in PLP1 will also be fully taken into account when detailed development schemes are considered by the Council at the planning application stage. It also assumes that the emerging policies in the Local Plan Review will be progressed and adopted to ensure that equality needs, for example, those of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople community will be met over the plan period. The following recommendation is therefore made:
 - Ensure that emerging policies in the Local Plan Review are fully progressed and adopted to ensure that any equality needs which are not included within the BRNP are addressed at a district wide level.