

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

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

<b>Title</b>	Purbeck Local Plan Supplementary Proposed Main Modifications Consultation
<b>Date assessment started:</b>	22/08/2023
<b>Version No:</b>	2
<b>Date of completion:</b>	9/10/23

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New or proposed:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please explain):	<input type="checkbox"/>

The supplementary main modifications are modifications resulting from new guidance on requiring nutrient neutrality, confirmation of a different approach to SANG delivery, updates on housing supply, changes to the council's approach to the former middle school site and changes resulting from the local government review process, e.g. Purbeck to Dorset etc.. We have taken the opportunity to identify consequential changes arising from the previous actions that are necessary to make certain that the Plan, and the Policies Map, read coherently. This should be read in combination with earlier EqIAs:

[Purbeck Local Plan Submission January 2019 Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment](#), and  
[Purbeck Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation EqIA](#)

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

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

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Members of the assessment team:	Sue Bellamy, Frances Summers (since left the council)

### Step 1: Aims

<b>What are the aims of your strategy, policy, project or service?</b>
The purpose of the <a href="#">Consultation plan</a> and <a href="#">Communications plan</a> plans for the Supplementary Proposed Main Modifications consultation is to identify how the Council will consult stakeholders on the Supplementary Proposed Main Modifications to the draft Purbeck Local Plan.
<b>What is the background or context to the proposal?</b>
<p>The Council is preparing a Purbeck Local Plan. As part of this process, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the requirements and process for producing a local plan. The Main Modifications, part of that statutory process, are suggested changes to a draft Local Plan which has undergone consideration through various round of consultation prior to submission for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate including public hearings. Planning officers will take phone calls if anyone has any queries and a hard copy will be sent to individuals if requested. People on the planning consultation database will be contacted directly. The vast majority of interested participants have provided emails.</p> <p>The Council and Inspector agreed modifications and further modifications to make the plan sound and legally compliant in planning terms which were consulted upon. Following on from comments received a further public hearing was held to consider Issues around Habitats Regulations. Additional issues around nutrient neutrality arose following an announcement from Natural England. We have also taken the opportunity to update the plan to reflect the local government review and resolve any textual and mapping errors that were not picked up earlier. Planning Regulations set out guidance for the consultation process during the development of local plans. A consultation and communications plans set out the process that will be followed. If the consultation period of 6 weeks ends up including the Christmas period, then this will be extended appropriately. As well as using the council's Citizen Space, paper copies of key documents will be placed in Purbeck libraries as well as the main office in Dorchester and town council offices in the Purbeck Area.</p>

Planning Regulations set out guidance for the consultation process during the development of local plans. This is an update on the previous EqIA.

## 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/PreUnitaryAuthority/purbeck>

It has not been able to update these statistics as they are no longer published on a Purbeck basis since the Local Government Review. All data now published at a Dorset lev

**What data do you already have about your service users, or the people your proposal will have an impact on?**

### Age:

With 27.6% of the Purbeck area population over 65 years of age, we have a considerably higher population of older people than England and Wales at 18.3%. 56.2% of our population are of working age and 16.2% are aged 15 or below. This is similar to Dorset as a whole.

	Total	Percentage	Dorset Council	England and Wales
<b>All Persons</b>	47,140	-	376,480	59,115,810
<b>All Males</b>	23,380	49.6%	48.9%	49.4%
<b>All Females</b>	23,760	50.4%	51.1%	50.6%
<b>0-15 yrs</b>	7,640	16.2%	15.9%	19.1%
<b>16-64 yrs</b>	26,510	56.2%	55.4%	62.5%
<b>65+ yrs</b>	12,990	27.6%	28.6%	18.3%

*Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by age.*

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**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 Purbeck 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*). This reflects the pattern across Dorset as a whole.

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**Ethnicity:**

The current population statistics for the Purbeck area indicate that the population is predominantly White British (96.2%). However, the overall statistic for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) of 3.8% with 1.3% of the population not having English as their first language. However it is unclear whether this is representative of the entire Purbeck area and how much variation there is across Purbeck. This reflects a similar pattern across Dorset.

<b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>Purbeck</b>	<b>Dorset</b>
White British & Northern Irish	96.2	95.6
BME (Black and Minority Ethnic population)	3.8	4.4

Main language not English	1.3	1.7%
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*Dorset Insight: breakdown of population by ethnicity.*

98.7% of Purbeck's residents aged 3 and over have recorded English as their main language in the 2011 Census, compared to 98.3% across Dorset. This contrasts with a figure of 92% for England and Wales. Polish is the top language spoken in Purbeck at 0.3%, followed by German, French, Spanish and Turkish all at 0.1% each.

**Religion:**

25.9% of Purbeck residents identify as having no religion and 65% of residents are Christian. The five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute 1% of Purbeck's residents' religious beliefs.

Religion	%	
	Purbeck	Dorset
Christian	65%	65.1
Non-Christian	1%	1.5
No religion	25.9	25.4
Religion not stated	8.1	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.

12% of households do not have a car or van, compared to 15.2% in Dorset and 26% in England and Wales<sup>1</sup>.

Notification of people on the Council's database will mainly be by email. Where the Council only has postal addresses these will be notified by post.

General publicity will go out to a wider audience using the Council's usual media: newsletter, magazine, press release and social media outlets. In addition we will be providing parishes with posters for their parish noticeboards informing local residents of the process and timetable for responses. Libraries and town council offices in the area will be provided with copies of the consultation material for reference. People will be advised that if they don't have access to the internet planning officers will be available to discuss ways of enabling them to engage with the consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> 2011 Census

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

None to date. This Eqla is an update on an earlier Eqla. This is an EqlA of the consultation and communications plan(s) for the supplementary proposed Main Modifications consultation of Purbeck Local Plan. It follows the principles set out in the Statement of Community Involvement which was adopted in October 2018.

To get to this stage Purbeck Local Plan underwent several rounds of consultation – Issues and Options, Options, New Homes for Purbeck, Pre-submission and Submission which were all subject to EqlA. During the Examination of the plan, the Council have held public hearings where issues were debated. Attendees included the Council, the general public, statutory consultees and stakeholders, e.g. planning agents. Two earlier sets of modifications have been consulted on (main modifications and further main modifications). Following an additional hearing session and a national update on the requirement for nutrient neutrality supplementary proposed main modifications have been drawn up which the council is required to consult on.

**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 respond will be informed of any subsequent changes made, if appropriate, and the adoption of the Purbeck Local Plan. The consultation summary report will be made available via Citizen Space on [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) .

**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></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Consultation Plan follows the SCI which 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.</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>

	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.
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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. The use of on-line format reduces the need for travel but is limited to those with digital skills and access. Paper copies will be made available on request.
	Negative
Please provide details:	For people with additional needs such as learning disabilities or those who are Neurodivergent as easy read and alternative formats haven't been used in the process so far and this may limit the scope of who responds to the consultation. The use of Citizen Space enables the council to provide the consultation in an accessible format.

Gender Reassignment & Gender Identity:	Neutral
Please provide details:	The methods of communication are unlikely to impact on any particular gender identity or gender reassignment. The process does not collect data on gender identity.



Pregnancy and maternity:	Positive
Please provide details:	As planning will provide online materials and offer hard copies of the document on request it is unlikely to impact on pregnant individuals or anyone on parental leave.

Race and Ethnicity:	Positive
Please provide details:	The Statement of Community Involvement, which the Consultation and Communications Plan(s) follows, 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. No events are required for this stage of the Examination in Public.

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:	Unclear
Please provide details:	Information will be available online. The Council will work directly with those who don't have internet access them to find a solution to enable them to engage in the consultation, e.g. provide paper copies on request.

Rural isolation:	Positive
Please provide details:	<p>Due to providing material online it is unlikely to negatively impact on anyone experiencing rural isolation.</p> <p>Notification of people on the Council's database will mainly be by email. Where the Council only has postal addresses these will be notified by post.</p> <p>General publicity will go out to a wider audience using the Council's usual media: newsletter, magazine, press release and social media outlets. In addition we will be providing parishes with posters for their parish noticeboards informing local residents of the process and timetable for responses. People will be advised that if they don't have access to the internet planning officers will be available to discuss ways of enabling them to engage with the consultation.</p>

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):	Unclear
Please provide details:	<p>The methods of communication used by planning are unlikely to impact on poverty.</p> <p>Notification of people on the Council's database will mainly be by email. Where the Council only has postal addresses these will be notified by post.</p> <p>General publicity will go out to a wider audience using the Council's usual media: newsletter, magazine, press release and social media outlets.</p> <p>In addition we will be providing parishes with posters for their parish noticeboards informing local residents of the process and timetable for responses.</p> <p>Libraries and town council offices in the area will be provided with paper copies of documents for local residents to access.</p> <p>People will be advised that if they don't have access to the internet planning officers will be available to discuss ways of enabling them to engage with the consultation.</p>

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?
Disability both positive and negative. Not using alternative formats such as Easy Reader	We will be using the recently adopted Citizen Space on-line consultation tool. Where appropriate the council will consider making specific arrangements for individuals to ensure that they are not disadvantaged, e.g. alternative formats.	Comms  Spatial Planning	Ongoing  Ongoing	Through Citizen Space.
Carers - neutral	Unclear as to whether Carers are unfairly impacted. Online availability may be easier for some but is assumption that carers may be older and/or struggle to afford digital access. The Council is offering alternatives to digital only, e.g. paper copies in libraries.	Spatial Planning	Ongoing for each phase of consultation.	See consultation and comms plans
Poverty unclear	Emphasis on digital access may create an affordability barrier. The Council is offering alternatives to digital only. Paper copies of documents will be made available in libraries local town council offices, as well as council offices in Dorchester.	Spatial Planning	Ongoing for each phase of consultation.	See consultation and comms plans

## Step 5: EqlA Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA:	Sue Bellamy	Date:	20 October 2023
Equality Lead:	James Palfreman-Kay	Date:	20 October 2023
Equality & Diversity Action Group Chair		Date:	