

# WEST SOMERSET LOCAL PLAN TO 2032 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT



December 2014



# West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 Equalities Impact Assessment

## **Section One – Aims and objectives of the policy /service:**

The Local Plan establishes a spatial planning framework for the communities of West Somerset. It sets a long term vision and policies to guide and inform development within the Local Planning Area.

## **Section Two – Groups that policy or service is targeted at:**

The Local Plan is targeted at those who live, work, study and visit the Local Planning Area as well as those investing in the area such as developers, businesses, the voluntary sector, public authorities and organisations.

## **Section Three – Groups that the policy or service is delivered by:**

The Development Plan will be delivered by a broad spectrum of organisations and sectors through both individual and partnership working. These include various Council departments; other public sector organisations; voluntary groups; charities; as well as developers, investors and businesses from the private sector.

## **Section Four – Evidence and data used for the assessment:**

Reference has been made in the preparation of this document to the information in the “West Somerset Vital Statistics” profile document (latest update November 2012).

## **Section Five – Conclusions drawn about the impact of service/policy/function on different groups highlighting negative impact or unequal outcomes:**

- **Religion/belief** – there is no policy that makes direct for further places of worship however, the Plan is sufficiently flexible to accommodate further provision should a need arise.
- **Disability** – there is no specific policy however, the Disability Discrimination Act will help to ensure that new buildings meet certain standards of accessibility.

- **Race** – there is a policy which establishes requirements for new gypsy and traveller provision.
- **Age** – the Plan acknowledges the ageing demographic through the provision of a mix of housing, type, sizes and tenures.
- **Gender** – no specific policy or mention in the text because no general inequalities were identified or known about.
- **Sexual orientation** – no specific policy or mention in the text because no general inequalities were identified or known about.
- **Gender reassignment** - no specific policy or mention in the text because no general inequalities were identified or known about.
- **Pregnancy and maternity** - no specific policy or mention in the text because no general inequalities were identified or known about.

See below for details:

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>Identified Equalities Implications:</b>
SD1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	This policy reflects the Government’s commitment to sustainable development, including consideration of the social objective and thereby equalities considerations.
EN1: Mitigation of impact of Hinkley Point new nuclear proposals	The policy is attempting to mitigate for the impacts of Hinkley. Since the development is now consented and a package of mitigation agreed it is assumed that any equalities issues have been taken into account.
EN2: Mitigation of impact of major energy generating proposals	None identified directly however the policy seeks to ensure that adequate measures by way of mitigation are taken into account in the consideration of such schemes.

SC1: Hierarchy of settlements	The policy seeks to encourage development to the most sustainable locations. These by definition will benefit from a greater range of services and facilities and utilities infrastructure provision (including choice of fuels). This will help to ensure that older and more vulnerable sections of the community in particular are not disadvantaged.
SC2: Housing provision	The policy is attempting to increase the supply of housing to meet the needs of all as identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
SC3: Appropriate mix of housing types and tenures	By providing for a mix of housing type and tenure the policy will help to ensure that younger/older people and disabled people can be adequately housed since there will be a stock of more suitable housing to meet their needs.
SC4: Affordable housing	By providing affordable housing to meet clearly identified the needs, the policy will help to ensure that younger/older people and disabled people (in affordable housing need) can be adequately housed since there will be a stock of more suitable housing to meet their needs.
SC5a/b: Self-containment of settlements	The policy will help to ensure that opportunities are taken to improve the balance of land uses within settlements. This will particularly benefit those who are less mobile (i.e. likely the young, elderly, pregnant and disabled).
MD1: Minehead/Alcombe development	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
MD2: Key strategic development allocation at Minehead/Alcombe	The policy will provide for a mixed development and will help to deliver contributions towards community infrastructure. This may include specific provision towards identified needs.
WA1: Watchet development	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
WA2: Strategic development allocation at Parsonage Farm Watchet	The policy will provide for a mixed development and will help to deliver contributions towards community infrastructure. This may include specific provision towards identified needs.
WI1: Williton development	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.

WI2: Key strategic development allocations at Williton	The policy will provide for a mixed development and will help to deliver contributions towards community infrastructure. This may include specific provision towards identified needs.
LT1: Post 2026 key strategic development sites	The policy will provide for a mixed development and will help to deliver contributions towards community infrastructure. This may include specific provision towards identified needs.
SV1: Development at Primary and Secondary Villages	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
OC1: Open countryside development	The policy would have a potentially positive impact on some younger people insofar as it allows for employment to be maintained or created by way of allowing for agricultural workers dwellings in locations which would otherwise be unacceptable for new housing.
EC1: Widening and strengthening the local economy	The policy will have a positive impact since it will provide for a mix of employment (e.g. post graduate, higher skilled, part-time which will help maternity issues, young workers, raise skill and wage levels).
EC2: Major employment sites	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
EC3: Greenfield employment generating development	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
EC4: Home based business activities	By providing greater flexibility it is considered the policy could have a positive impact for those who are less mobile.
EC5: Safeguarding existing employment uses	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
EC6: Work/Live developments	By providing greater flexibility it is considered the policy could have a positive impact for those who are less mobile.

EC7: Training and educational provision	The policy would have a positive impact against the age characteristic and particularly for younger people.
EC8: Tourism in settlements	The policy could have a positive impact for those who are less mobile and visiting the Planning Area.
EC9: Tourism outside of settlements	The policy could have a positive impact for those who are less mobile and visiting the Planning Area.
EC10: Gateway settlements	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
EC11: Agriculture	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
EC12: Minehead retail areas and central areas for Alcombe, Watchet and Williton	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.
TR1: Access to and from West Somerset	The policy's commitment to travel planning will help to ensure that those who are less mobile (e.g. the young, older people and disabled) have appropriate access to sustainable modes of transport where feasible.
TR2: Reducing reliance on the private car	The policy's commitment to travel planning will help to ensure that those who are less mobile (e.g. the young, older people and disabled) have appropriate access to sustainable modes of transport where feasible.
CF1: Maximising access to recreational facilities	The policy seeks to ensure a balanced and appropriate range of provision. This will help to ensure the needs of all sectors of the community are taken account of.
CF2: Planning for healthy communities	This policy positively seeks to ensure that healthy communities are created. It seeks to encourage the health of the whole community.

CC1: Carbon reduction (small scale schemes)	This will help to ensure that older and more vulnerable sections of the community in particular are not disadvantaged since it will encourage a diversity of energy supply.
CC2: Flood risk management	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
CC3: Coastal change management area	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
CC4: Coastal zone protection	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
CC5: Water efficiency	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
CC6: Water management	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH1: Historic environment	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH1a/b: Areas of high archaeological potential / sites of local significance	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH2: Landscape character protection	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH3: Nature conservation and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH4: Green infrastructure	The policy will make a positive contribution towards physical and mental health.

NH5: Protection of best and most versatile agricultural land	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH6: Pollution, contaminated land and land instability	The policy seeks to minimise the negative impact of future development on the health and well-being of adjoining communities.
NH8/9: bat / waterfowl consultation zones	It is not considered that this policy would have any greater or lesser impact against protected characteristics.
NH10: Securing high standards of design	The policy seeks to ensure that the public realm is attractive, safe accessible and well-connected to its surroundings. This will therefore impact positively on the age protected characteristic and disability.
GT1: Gypsies and travellers	Gypsy and travellers are a recognised cultural and minority ethnic group and this policy will help to ensure that their individual needs are identified and met.
ID1: Infrastructure delivery	Policy reinforces aims of strategic policies.