

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer

Organisation prepared for	Somerset County Council		
Version	Version 1	Date Completed	19/01/2021
Description of what is being impact assessed			
The requirement to establish a new 14 class primary school at land at Comeytrowe, Taunton (Orchard Grove)			
Evidence			
<p>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), Staff and/ or area profiles, should be detailed here</p>			
<p>The provision of a new 14 class primary school in Taunton to meet pupil place demand that will arising from a significant housing development on the south-west side of Taunton between the existing parishes of Comeytrowe and Trull.</p> <p>As a rule of thumb 2000 new homes could yield an additional 640 pupils. However, in the first instance it is proposed that a 14 class primary school with a 52 place nursery is built with potential to expand at a later date should demand require it. A site for the new school is already allocated within the development</p> <p>The neighbouring schools (Bishops Hull, Parkfield, Bishop Henderson and Trull) are full or near capacity and cannot be expanded to meet the demand for places from a development of 2000 new homes in the south west of Taunton.</p> <p>Bishop Henderson Primary School capacity 420 number on roll 431 (Oct 2020 census) Bishops Hull Primary School capacity 237 number on roll 225 (Oct 2020 census)</p>			

Parkfield Primary School capacity 420 number on roll 420 (Oct 2020 census)

Trull Primary School capacity 270 number on roll 257 (Oct 2020 census)

Doing nothing in response to the delivery of a housing development of this size would likely result in the LA failing to meet its statutory duty of providing sufficient school spaces.

7 classes will be required initially and the remaining 7 will be brought into use according to further demographic growth and the build out rate of the housing developments.

The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A (the academy free school presumption) to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Where a LA identifies a need for a new school it must seek to establish an academy or free school.

The requirement for a new primary school at Comeytrowe is referenced in the Council's School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan for Somerset (www.somerset.gov.uk/EducationIGP) and has been discussed with Somerset West & Taunton Council and the housing developers regularly since the submission of the outline planning application in 2015. Local school leaders are also fully aware of the need for a new primary school.

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

Previously, where a new school is proposed, a stakeholder engagement event is held which gives an opportunity for stakeholders to view concept plans of the school and to ask questions of Officers about the Free School Presumption Process and the evidence of need for the new school. Due to the Pandemic and current lockdown restrictions this has not been possible. Instead Somerset Consults will shortly have uploaded information about the proposed new school together with a contact form. This will include

provisional floor plans for the new school. Interested parties will be able to email to arrange a telephone conversation with appropriate officer. This window will be open for 4 weeks.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new primary school will be co-educational and for children aged 2 to 11 years of age. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed new primary school will be fully accessible for disabled users with the proper facilities and provisions in place to cater for them, pursuant to statutory obligations set out in Equality legislation and that brought together under the umbrella provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The building will be two storey but with a lift Toilets will be accessible The main doors will be automatic but not all fire doors will be. Internal doors are generally on magnets that release in the event of a fire. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour choices are decided with the Academy Sponsor but a steer towards lighter walls and darker carpets is encouraged. • Hearing loops whilst not fitted as standard can be installed if required. 			
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	□	⊗	□
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	□	⊗	□
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	□	⊗	□
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is looking for an Academy Sponsor who will run the school for the benefit of the whole community, adopting admission arrangements that give priority to the local community, regardless of their faith or other affiliation. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data shows us that women are still the primary care giver and they are also less likely to have access to a car in a single car household. Providing a new primary school as part of a major 	□	⊗	□

	new housing development means primary education provision is locally accessible without the need for car usage.			
Sexual orientation	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	•	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

[illegible]

	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				
Completed by:	Liz Smith			
Date	19 January 2021			
Signed off by:				
Date				
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	Tom Rutland 2 February 2021			
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	Liz Smith			
Review date:	1 July 2021			