

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

The [EIA guidance notes](#) will help you complete this assessment.

If you need help or advice please contact Paul Harding. P.harding@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Organisation prepared for

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Version

1

Date Completed

30 September 2021

Description of what proposed change or policy is being impact assessed

The Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town is a new planning policy guidance document under the adopted Local Plan and is proposed to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. Once adopted the SPD would be a material consideration when considering any planning applications. The Design Guide sets out the Council's aspirations for improving the public realm and public spaces in Taunton Garden Town and sets out a materials and street furniture palette for these areas.

The document has been subject to three separate consultations over an 18-month period (minimum of 6 weeks each) and has involved consultation with an extensive range of stakeholders, including all those shown in Appendix of the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

This SPD provides clear policy guidance for the local planning authority, developers, statutory bodies and utilities which will support the delivery of sustainable public realm enhancement. The SPD will assist on the deliverability of public realm proposals, since it clearly sets out guidance on the requirements of the Local Planning Authority and this can then be taken into account in any proposals. Similarly, the SPD clearly sets out Local Planning Authority's requirements for good design which will assist in officers making a balanced judgement against other policy and Council objectives.

As part of the preparation of the document a number of workshops took place to inform its preparation, this involved officers and statutory consultees from a range of disciplines - planning, landscape, ecology, trees, heritage and highways. This has enabled an insight into many issues affecting statutory consultees and different user groups.

Evidence

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

The Council's draft Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town has been reviewed.

This design guide document builds upon advice set out in NHCLG's National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code.

It also builds on work undertaken in the development and approval of other 'live' strategies:

- SWT Corporate Strategy;
- Taunton Garden Town Vision;
- Taunton Garden Town Charter and Checklist
- SWT Economic Development strategy;
- Improving Lives in Somerset (Health & Wellbeing) 2019-2028,
- Somerset Housing Strategy -2019-2023,
- Somerset Growth Plan 2017-2030

Each of the above which have been evidence-based using such sources as Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA).

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

Officers within the Council with an overview of the Equalities function, who have experience of identifying impacts on those with protected characteristics have been consulted for this initial identification of potential impacts.

The SPD document has been subject to three separate consultations (for a minimum of 6 weeks each consultation). These consultations have included the relevant community and interest groups and individuals associated with protected characteristics.

The groups consulted in the consultation events have included the below organisations:

- i) Disability groups – Action on Disability and Development, Alzheimer's Society – Somerset, Autism Somerset, Bridgwater & Taunton Deane Deaf Club, Compass Disability Services, ESCAPE Support Groups, Maggie's Centre (Cancer Care),

- Mind in Taunton & West Somerset, RNID (Action on Hearing Loss), Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), Somerset Sight, Taunton and District Mencap Society.
- ii) Diversity groups – Avatar Indian Dance Somerset, British Bangladeshi Association Somerset, CHARIS, Devon and Somerset Anglo-Scandinavian Society, Diversity Voice, Johnny Mars Foundations, Minehead and District Refugee Support Group, Minehead Methodist Church- Little Fishes Toddler Group, Multicultural Parents Group, Oakwood Church, Philippine International Neighbourhood Association of Somerset (PINAS), Polish Association Taunton, Polish Voice TV, RAISE (Racial Awareness Inclusion Support and Education CIC, Somerset Art Works, Somerset Film, Somerset Gypsy and Traveller Forum, Somerset Portuguese Association, South Somerset Filipinos and Friends Association (SSFFA), Syrian Women’s Group, Taunton Malayali Prayer Group, Taunton Welcomes Refugees, Under One Sun, West Somerset Inter-Cultural Friendship Society, YMCA Somerset Coast
 - iii) Multicultural groups – Anglo Chinese Society, Equality & Human Rights Commission, Ethnic Minority Achievement and Traveller Education Service, Friends Families and Travellers, Somerset Multicultural Association, Taunton Deane Polish Association, The Diversity Trust.
 - iv) Religious Groups – Bahai Community, Catholic Church Clifton Diocese, Diocese of Bath and Wells, Diocese of Bath and Wells – Community Cohesion, Humanists, Jewish Community of Somerset, Minehead Baptist Church, Somerset Churches Together, Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit.
 - v) Other Voluntary Groups – 10 Parishes, Age UK Somerset, Arc Inspire (Taunton Association for the Homeless), Campaign to Protect Rural England (Somerset), Citizens Advice Bureau (Taunton), Citizens Advice Bureau (West Somerset), Community Council for Somerset, Creating Learning Opportunities in Western Somerset (CLOWNS), Cycle Somerset, Engage West Somerset, Forum 21, FWAG South West England Office, Home Builders Federation, Minehead Conservation Society, Onion Collective CIC, People Plus, Quantock Eco, RSPB South West England, Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership, Somerset Association of Local Council’s, Somerset County Federation of Women’s Institutes, Somerset Gay Health, Somerset Lesbian Network (SLN), Somerset Playing Field’s Association, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Youth Partnership, South West Seniors Forum, Sparkle Somerset, SUSTRANS, Taunton Area Cycling Campaign, Taunton Deane Tenants Forum, Taunton Open Door, Taunton Ramblers, Taunton Women’s Aid, The Exmoor Society, Transition Minehead and Alcombe, Transition Town Taunton, Taunton Deane Village Agent (East), Wellington & District Sports Federation, West Somerset Village Agent 1, West Somerset Village Agent 2, West Somerset and Exmoor Bridleways, West Somerset LETS Group, Wivey Action on Climate and Environment, Women’s Equality Network Somerset (WENS), YMCA – Taunton.

No representations were received from any of the above groups as part of the consultations carried out. Similarly, no representations were received from individuals suggesting that any changes be made to the draft document.

It is important to understand that where a planning application is brought forward it would be subject to additional public consultation on the details of the particular scheme and its impact on the community, including people with Protected Characteristics.

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	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located. Spaces will also be well lit and overlooked with natural surveillance. The guide also recommends the provision of seating which will be of particular benefit to older people who may need to rest.</p>	☐	☐	☒
Disability	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located. Spaces will also be well lit and overlooked with natural surveillance. The guidance includes a specification for the use of tactile paving and highlight strips for street</p>	☐	☐	☒

	<p>furniture in order to assist blind and partially sighted persons. This accords with national highway design guidance.</p> <p>The guidance advocates in section 1.1.9 equality and inclusive mobility through design and engagement.</p> <p>The guide also recommends the provision of seating which will be on particularly benefit to people with restricted mobility who may need to rest.</p>			
Gender reassignment	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located. These spaces will be fully accessible by mothers with babies in pushchairs and buggies.</p> <p>The guide also recommends the provision of seating which will be on particularly benefit to women who may need to sit to feed their baby or pregnant women who may need to rest whilst in the public realm.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Race and ethnicity	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located. The guidance also addresses lighting of public realm in order to create safe environments. This can be of particular importance to lone women at night.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</p>	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p> <p>All members of the community, including the protected groups, should benefit from the guidance set out in the Public Realm Design Guide, since this would create high quality spaces without trip hazards and with attractive street furniture well located.</p> <p>The aim is to create streets and places for everyone, walkers, cyclists, drivers and all ages/abilities. This would include carers assisting people in wheelchairs, pushchairs and buggies.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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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.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
N/A	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Completed by:	Fiona Webb, Placemaking Specialist
Date	30/09/2021
Signed off by:	
Date	
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	