

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

1.1

Date Completed

03.03.2023

Description of what proposed change or policy is being impact assessed

Change to four tennis courts owned by the Council, two at Vivary Park and two at Taunton Green, to make them pay to use facilities with an online booking system rather than being open, free to use facilities without a booking system.

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

- Area profiles

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

Groups which represent people with protected characteristics were contacted as part of the consultation which took place between 31st January 2023 and 27th February 2023 but responses from these groups were not received. We did however as part of the consultation receive responses to our public survey from people with protected characteristics, so those with protected characteristics have been consulted and their views on the proposed changes taken into account as part of the analysis of the survey results.

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	The requirement to pay for use of the courts could have a negative impact on younger people who are more likely to have a lower income, for example as a result of being in full-time education. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	☒	☐	☒
Disability	Potentially low take-up of provision by some people with a disability who may perceive that tennis isn't accessible to them. The upgrading of facilities to a good standard, and a charging policy that will ensure ongoing provision of good quality playing facilities will be of particular benefit to players with mobility disabilities, for whom poor quality playing surfaces would be a barrier to participation or full enjoyment of tennis facilities.	☒	☐	☒
Gender reassignment	No adverse impact. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	☐	☐	☒
Marriage and civil partnership	No adverse impact. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	☐	☐	☒

Pregnancy and maternity	No adverse impact. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race and ethnicity	Potentially low take-up of provision by some ethnic groups who may perceive that tennis isn't accessible to them. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	Potentially low take-up of provision by some faith groups who may perceive that tennis isn't accessible to them. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	No adverse impact. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	No adverse impact. For this group as with the wider community the provision of better-quality tennis facilities is a positive thing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	The introduction of charges for the courts could negatively impact those on a low income by creating a financial barrier to accessing the courts. This is particularly a concern at Taunton Green as area profiles indicate that almost 40% of the households in Priorswood ward would fall into the 'most deprived' category when households are allocated to one of 5 categories from most to least deprived. There are three tennis courts at Taunton Green with only two planned for refurbishment so the third court could remain available and free to use but households with low incomes may experience a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p>barrier to participation in using the upgraded facilities, due to the introduction of a charge. In contrast, at Vivary 6% of households fall into the 'most deprived' category, whilst 66% fall into the 'least deprived' category.</p>			
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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
<p>A number of discounted and free sessions will be made available to ensure that everyone who wishes to still has an opportunity to use the tennis courts. One of the three courts at Taunton Green will also remain open and free to use but will not be refurbished.</p>	30/06/2023	Jessica Kemmish	<p>Quarterly review to allocate discounted and free sessions. Any public feedback received by the Council on the level of availability of these sessions to be taken into account at each quarterly review.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Communications and marketing campaigns will include inclusive design, imagery and positive messaging to promote tennis as a sport for all</p>	30/06/2023	Jessica Kemmish	<p>Communications and marketing regularly reviewed.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Negative impacts can be mitigated.

Completed by: Jessica Kemmish

Date 3.03.2023

Signed off by: Paul Harding

Date 3.03.2023

Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:

To be reviewed by: (officer name)

Review date: