



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1. Initial information

Name of the policy, project, strategy, project or service being assessed:

Purbeck Local Plan 2018 to 2034

2. Is this a (please delete those not required):

This is the final version of the Purbeck Local Plan which will replace the existing Purbeck Local Plan Part 1. It has been through several rounds of consultation and a statutory examination process and found sound and legally compliant with planning regulations. No changes have been made since the last consultation and EqIA.

3. Is this (please delete those not required):

External (residents, communities, partners)

The Purbeck Local Plan has been shaped by consultation and engagement involving local people, businesses, community groups, external partners and relevant internal officers. It is based on evidence and the results of consultations undertaken in 2015, 2016 and 2018 prior to the Council submitting the plan for examination, additional evidence submitted during the examination and the results of consultations on modifications to policies in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2023.

4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

The Plan sets out:

- the Council's vision and objectives for the area's development over the plan period;
- policies to ensure that development delivers sustainable homes, built to a high quality of design and maintains our high quality built and natural environment;
- the locations for housing growth and requirements for affordable housing;
- policies to build a strong, competitive economy and set out the future distribution for new employment land space and thus new jobs;
- policies to maintain and enhance the vibrancy and vitality of our town centres;
- policies to support a sustainable transport and road infrastructure network;
- and
- proposals for delivery including an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to demonstrate the infrastructure requirements necessary to support the development proposed in this plan.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

Each local authority is required to produce a local plan which guides decisions on future development proposals and addresses the needs and opportunities of the area, alongside national planning policy and guidance. In most cases, the plans are reviewed every 5 years.

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g national statistics, employee data):

The plan sets out the approach and detailed policies for the area up to 2034. It is based on [evidence and the results of consultations](#) undertaken in 2015, 2016 and 2018 prior to the Council submitting the plan for examination, additional evidence submitted during the examination and the results of consultations on [modifications](#) to policies in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2023.

Census and ONS population data is used where necessary in evidence studies.

Dorset Insight – Area profiles

<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/insights/AreaProfiles/UnitaryAuthority/dorset-council>

Not all data is available at a Purbeck level following the local government review which resulted in Dorset Council in 2020.

7. What did this tell you?

Age

	Total	Percentage	Dorset Council	England
All persons	47,140		379,791	59,719,724
All Males	23,380	49.6	48.9	49.5
All Females	23,760	50.4	51.1	50.5
0-15 yrs	7,640	16.2	15.7	19.1
16 -64 yrs	26,510	56.2	54.9	62.2
65+ yrs	12,990	27.6	29.4	18.6

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.

80.9% of residents in Purbeck report having very good or good health, pretty much in line with the rest of Dorset (80.7%).

Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity	Purbeck %	Dorset %	England & Wales %
--------------------	-----------	----------	-------------------

White British & Northern Irish	96.2	93.9	74.4
BME (Black and Minority Ethnic population)	3.8	6.1	25.6
Main language not English	Not available	1.8	8.9

Religion

Religion	Purbeck	Dorset	England & Wales
Christian	Not available	51.6	46.2%
Non-Christian	Not available	1.8	10.6%
No religion	Not available	40.1	37.2%
Religion not stated	Not available	6.5	6%

Access and connectivity

Access and connectivity	Purbeck	Dorset
% no cars or vans in household	Not available	13.7
%2 or more cars or vans in household	Not available	45.5

Rural and social isolation creates barriers for communities to access services. Ensuring people can access planning online helps alleviate this.

12% of households do not have a car or van, compared to 15.2% in Dorset and 26% in England and Wales¹.

Socio-economic

	Purbeck	Dorset
Gross weekly full time earnings residential	£499.70	£608
Gross weekly full time earnings (workplace)	£577.40	£579
High skill occupation	38.6%	44.3%
Intermediate skill occupation	44%	40.5%
Low skill occupation	17.4%	15.1%

Notification of adoption of the Purbeck Local Plan will be direct by email, or post where necessary to those on the database. Notification of adoption of the local plan will go out to a wider audience using the Council's usual media: newsletter, magazine, press release and social media outlets.

Libraries and town council offices in the area will be provided with copies of the plan and associated documents and a poster announcing the adoption of the plan.

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

No-one. This EqIA accompanies a council report recommending adoption of the draft Purbeck Local Plan. No changes have been made since the last EqIA.

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

No further information is required.

Is an EQIA required?

This report is about the adoption of Purbeck Local Plan which has undergone extensive consultation during its development, an examination in public and EqIA at different stages of development. There have been no changes since the last EqIA and, as such, does not need a further EqIA but we have taken the opportunity to review the impacts assessed through earlier assessments, particularly those where the impact was unclear. This should be read in conjunction with earlier EqIAs:

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

[Purbeck Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation EqIA](#)

[Purbeck Local Plan Supplementary Proposed Main Modifications Consultation EqIA](#)

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
-----------------	---

Negative Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

The plan contains 40 policies which were [assessed](#) prior to submission for Examination in 2019.

Table of policies	
Vision and Objectives	
Policy V1	Spatial strategy for sustainable communities
Policy V2	Green belt
Policy E1	Landscape
Policy E2	Historic environment
Policy E3	Renewable energy
Policy E4	Assessing flood risk
Policy E5	Sustainable drainage systems
Policy E6	Coastal change management areas
Policy E7	Conservation of protected sites
Policy E8	Dorset heathlands
Policy E9	Poole harbour
Policy E10	Biodiversity and geodiversity
Policy E11	Development next to sewage treatment works and pumping stations
Policy E12	Design
Policy H1	Local housing requirement
Policy H2	The housing land supply
Policy H3	New housing development requirements
Policy H4	Moreton Station / Redbridge Pit
Policy H5	Wool
Policy H6	Lytchett Matravers
Policy H7	Upton
Policy H8	Small sites next to existing settlements
Policy H9	Housing mix
Policy H10	Adaptable and accessible homes
Policy H11	Affordable housing
Policy H12	Rural exception sites
Policy H13	Rural workers homes in the countryside
Policy H14	Second homes
Policy H15	Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople

Policy EE1	Employment land supply
Policy EE2	Planning for employment
Policy EE3	Vibrant town and local centres
Policy EE4	Supporting vibrant and attractive tourism
Policy I1	Developer contributions to deliver Purbeck's infrastructure
Policy I2	Improving accessibility and transport
Policy I3	Green infrastructure, trees and hedgerows
Policy I4	Recreation, sport and open space
Policy I5	Morden Park strategic suitable alternative natural green space (SANG)
Policy I6	Wareham integrated health, social care and housing
Policy I7	Community facilities and services

The policies have been through a series of modifications to ensure they provide clarity, meet planning regulations requirements and address updates in the planning system since submission.

The table below revisits those policies that were identified originally as potentially being in conflict with equality principles.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Neutral impacts	
Disability	Minor positive impact	Policy H10 Accessible and adaptable homes requires 10% of homes on major sites to be accessible and visitable by people with mobility issues.
	Unclear impact	E2 Historic environment. There is potential conflict for disability as the protection of the historic environment can reduce accessible options. However, the policy states that public benefits arising from development of a heritage asset can be acceptable if they outweigh the harm.
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Neutral Impact	None of the policies will impact on people who have(or intend to) undergo gender re-assignment or live in a gender different from their gender at birth.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral Impact	Marital or civil partnership status is not impacted by any of the policies in the Purbeck Local Plan.
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not discriminate against people going through pregnancy or maternity leave.
Race and Ethnicity	Minor positive Impact	Policy H15 Meeting the needs of gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople encourages the provision of sites for the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople community and sets out the criteria for the provision of sites.
Religion and belief	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not impact on any religion or belief system.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Sex (consider men and women)	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not impact differently according to sex.
Sexual orientation	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not have impact on individuals with varying sexual orientation.
People with caring responsibilities	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not have an impact on people with caring responsibilities.
Rural isolation	Unclear impact	<p>Policy E1 Landscape: There is potential impact for would-be rural dwellers as development is restricted due to environmental constraints. Whilst this is unavoidable the policy does allow for some development and cumulatively the whole plan will allow for an element of choice in housing locations.</p> <p>Policy E7 Conservation of protected sites and Policy E8 Dorset Heathlands: There is potential impact for would-be rural dwellers as development is restricted due to environmental constraints. Whilst this is unavoidable the policy does allow for some development and cumulatively the whole plan will allow for an element of choice in housing locations.</p> <p>H2 Housing land supply: The policy identifies the objectively assessed need for new homes in designated locations. Whilst this development is spread across the area it does focus, in the main, on current settlements. This may increase rural isolation, although, this will in part be mitigated by improving transport links (policy I2).</p>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		<p>The plan avoids exacerbating rural isolation by focussing new development in towns and larger villages where services are available.</p> <p>Policy EE1 Employment land supply: The policy will support a variety of opportunities on employment land providing certain criteria can be met. The policy states that employment sites are located particularly in the towns and villages; this could have an impact on rural dwellers. However, employment sites in rural areas may not be viable and the proposed locations are dispersed.</p>
	Minor positive impact	<p>Policy H13 Rural Workers homes in the countryside: The council acknowledges that new rural workers homes may be needed to support new rural businesses and to allow existing businesses to grow. The policy requires the applicant to demonstrate an essential functional need to be living close to their workplace.</p> <p>Policy I7 Community facilities and services: The policy will benefit all members of the public by safeguarding existing community facilities and provision of new facilities for new development. There is a potential conflict for rural isolation as new facilities will be encouraged to locate within a defined settlement. Whilst this is difficult to mitigate other policies within the plan seek to improve transport links.</p>
Socio-economic deprivation	Neutral impact	<p>Policy EE1 Employment land supply: The policy will support a variety of opportunities on employment land providing certain criteria can be met. The policy states that employment sites are particularly in the towns and villages; this could have an impact on rural dwellers. However, employment sites in rural areas may not be viable and the proposed locations are dispersed.</p>
Single parents	Neutral Impact	The policies in the plan do not impact on single parents.

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

The Plan seeks to promote accessibility and connectivity to housing, employment, education and leisure facilities throughout the plan area. Specialist groups are supported through policy requirements, ensuring that an appropriate mix of housing and accommodation types is provided to meet the needs of all residents. This includes support for proposals for housing specifically designed to meet the identified needs of older people, specialist accommodation and self-build/custom build housing.

The Plan demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to equality, promoting cohesive communities in the plan area through area specific policy. Chapters 5 and 6 of the Plan and the spatial strategy highlight the support for diverse interconnected communities, identifying socio-economic objectives at the strategic and local level. This will maximise infrastructure delivery and employment opportunities in areas of lower economic status, contributing towards addressing pockets of deprivation. Taking this into consideration, it is appropriate to conclude that the Plan would have significant positive long term effects.

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
Disability	Accessibility to heritage assets need to be addressed where possible/appropriate.	Landowner	As necessary
Rural isolation	Monitoring delivery of homes in the countryside and retention of community services.	Dorset Council	Ongoing

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqIA: Sue Bellamy, Senior Planning Policy Officer

Officers involved in completing the EqIA:

Date of completion: 6/6/24

Version Number: 003

EqIA review date:

Inclusion Champion Sign Off:

Equality Lead Sign Off:

Next Steps:

- the EqIA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqIA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqIA, to get a better understanding.
- EqIA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)