

# SSDC Equality Analysis Template (2017)

## Page 1: What is Equality Analysis?

Q1. Q1.1 Please describe the change that is the subject of this EqA i.e. the introduction of a new, or significant change to an existing, policy strategy, service or function .

Following the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Review of South Somerset, a new Ward has been created which crosses both Areas North and East. In order to retain Area based working, it is proposed that the whole of the new Ward be encompassed within one Area Committee.

## Page 2: EQUALITY ANALYSIS (EA)

Q2. Q2.1 What information have you used to analyse the effects on equality, particularly in relation to protected groups?

The proposal to move the current St Michaels Ward into Area East Committee will mean that any Council related issue will be discussed at the Area East Committee meeting - currently held in Wincanton, rather than the Area North Committee meetings - currently held in Somerton.

The proposal will affect the residents of Chilthorne Domer, Montacute, Stoke Sub Hamdon, and Tintinhull who will have to travel a further 8 to 10 miles to attend their Area Committee meeting.

I have used the ward profile data on the Somerset Intelligence website, relating to the Population; Age; Adult Social Care; Health and Car Access of the residents of St Michaels Ward.

Q3. Q2.2 What has this information told you about the potential effect on equality, particularly in relation to the protected groups?

The usual resident population of St Michael's ward is 2,351 (mid 2016 estimates).

The St Michaels Ward has a higher than average population aged between 40 to 80 years and a lower than average population aged between 20 to 40 years.

The percentage of the population of the ward aged 65 years and above is 27.9% (655 people) which is higher than that for the District as a whole. This tells us that there are potentially a larger number of older residents who might be affected in terms of their ability to access Area Committee meetings in Wincanton once the ward has moved into Area East.

In terms of disability or long term limiting illness, the residents receiving adult social care within the Ward is significantly lower than that of the District. The number of people whose day to day activities are limited is consistent with that of the District, being 19% or 446 people. However the number of households with a car is higher than that of the District. This tells us that there may be more people with restricted ability to attend Area Committee meetings due to their day to day activities being limited.

Q4. Q2.3 The Equality Act Aims to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation Advance equality of opportunity Foster good relations With these three aims in mind, what is your assessment of the likely impact of the policy, strategy, service or function on the following?:

|  | Likely to benefit (Positive Impact) | Likely to disadvantage (Negative Impact) | No specific impact |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| People from different age groups   |                                     | X  |                    |
| Men or women   |                                     |  | X                  |
| Women who are pregnant or have recently given birth  |                                     |  | X                  |
| People who have undergone, are proposing or are undergoing gender reassignment   |                                     |  | X                  |
| People with disabilities or carers   |                                     | X  |                    |
| People from different religions, belief or faith (including those with no belief)  |                                     |  | X                  |
| People of different race or ethnicity  |                                     |  | X                  |
| People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual  |                                     |  | X                  |
| Marriage/Civil Partnership   |                                     |  | X                  |
| People who are serving or have served in the armed forces and their families* (* this group is not protected by the Equality Act but are still potentially vulnerable or at risk of exclusion) |                                     |  | X                  |

Q5. Q2.4 Where you have indicated a Positive or Negative Impact in Q2.3, please describe in more detail what the specific Impacts are.

The potential negative impacts for elderly and disabled residents would be in terms of their ability to attend an Area Committee meeting if moved to Wincanton due to it being a greater distance to travel than when the ward was in Area North. This would be particularly true for those who may rely on taxis for transport due to the costs being higher.

Q6. Q2.5 What actions will be, or have been taken to either mitigate any negative impacts or create a positive impact as identified in Q4?

Although the ward has a higher number of older residents and residents with limited day to day activity, attendance at an Area Committee meeting would still require travel by car, whether the meeting was held in Somerton in Area North or in Wincanton once moved into Area East.

It is acknowledged that this proposal to move the St Michaels Ward into Area East would be less convenient for those residents but that is outweighed by the benefits of achieving a better balance of committee membership across the district.

Although it would be less convenient for residents to travel to Wincanton to attend an Area Committee meeting, the higher than average vehicle ownership in the ward suggests that residents would be able to attend utilising their own or a friend/neighbour's transport.

In view of the increased area/size of the Area East Committee consideration can be given to holding the occasional Area Committee meeting in a venue to the West of that Area.

Q7. Q2.6 If there is a need to review the EqA, when do you propose to do this?

\* 01/11/2019

Q8. Q2.7 How will you monitor the impact that the decision or policy has had on protected groups?

We keep a note of public attendance at our committee meetings and if there was an issue to be discussed relating to the St Michaels Ward area, we can gauge by the attendance (or lack of it) if the decision has had an impact.

### Page 3: Quality Check / Approval Log

Q9. Q3.1 Date and name of Officer Completing the EqA

\* 31/10/2018

**Name of Officer Completing the EqA and Date Completed**

Angela Cox

Q10. Q3.2 Date and name of the Line Manager/Senior Manager approving the EqA

\* 05/11/2018

**Name of the Line Manager approving the EqA**

Lisa Davis

Q11. Q3.3 Date and Name of the Equality Coordinator signing off the EA

\* 05/11/2018

**Name of the Equality Coordinator**

David Crisfield

Q12. Q3.4 Any Comments

*No Response*