



# Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006 – 2028

## Main Modifications Equality Analysis (EqA)

November 2014

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## **Equality Analysis (EqA) of Main Modifications to the Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006 - 2028**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Following the conclusion of the resumed Local Plan Examination Hearing Sessions in June 2014 and the receipt of the Examination Inspector's Preliminary Findings in July 2014 a number of further Main Modifications are proposed to be made to the Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan. In accordance with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 EqA has been carried out of the further Main Modifications.
- 1.2 The Proposed Main Modifications were subject to consultation between 28 August and 10 October 2014 and formally approved for submission by South Somerset District Council's Full Council on the 6 November 2014.

### **2. Main Modifications Consultation Document, August 2014**

- 2.1 A Stage 1: Screening and Summary Statement EqA was carried out of the following Policies:
  - Policy YV2: North East Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension – inclusion of detail on landscape mitigation measures at the North East Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension.
  - Policy YV3: East Coker and North Coker Buffer Zone – deletion of the East Coker and North Coker Buffer Zone.
  - Policy SS3: Delivering New Employment Land: deletion of a specific employment land figure for rural settlements, the inclusion of an explanation of the Council's approach to such proposals in these settlements and reference to an early review of housing and employment provision at Wincanton.
  - Policy SS5: Delivering New Housing Growth – amendment to improve clarity on housing delivery in Crewkerne and Wincanton and reference to an early review of housing and employment provision at Wincanton.
- 2.2 This initial screening process identified that no Stage 2: Full Equality Analysis Assessment was required. The Stage 1 screening is shown in Table 1 of this document.

### **3. Response to Main Modifications Consultation Document**

- 3.1 In response to the representations received during the consultation period a number of minor amendments have been made to the Proposed Main Modifications. A Stage 1: Screening and Summary Statement EqA has been carried out of the further amended policies:
  - YV2: Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extensions
  - SS5: Delivering New Housing Growth
- 3.2 This initial screening process has indicated that no Stage 2 Assessments are required and no potential negative equalities impacts have been identified. The Stage 1 screening is shown in Table 2.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The further Main Modifications to the Proposed Submission South Somerset Local Plan 2006 - 2028 have undergone a robust process of Equality Analysis. Analysis which at this stage has not highlighted any issues and no new mitigations were identified. Due regard has been given to the General Equality Duty and the further Main Modifications to the Local Plan is sound in that respect.

**Table 1: Stage 1 Screening of Main Modifications (August 2014)**

<b>Policy Number</b>  <b>Policies where Main Modifications are proposed</b>	<b>Is this a change to service delivery? (including, withdrawal or reduction of services)</b>	<b>Does the *policy/strategy/function/service / affect our workforce or employment practices</b>	<b>Is this a financial or budget decision that may affect any of the protected groups differently?</b>	<b>Could this policy or service and the way we deliver it affect some groups in society differently?</b>	<b>Does the policy / strategy / function service affect service users or the wider community?</b>	<b>Summary Statement and Comments</b>
Policy YV2: North East Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>Proposed Submission Local Plan Policy YV2 underwent full Equality Analysis (EqA) as part of its formulation. The Policy underwent Stage 1 screening as a result of Proposed Modification M95 in January 2013 and the Proposed Main Modifications submitted in March 2014 (PMM2). This comprised a screening and summary statement, and at this stage it was considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment was not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p> <p>To address the issues raised by the Inspector in his Preliminary Findings of 16 July 2014 additional text is to be added to strengthen Policy YV2 regarding mitigation of the landscape impact of the North East Yeovil SUE. This additional text can then be used to inform masterplanning consideration through the development management process.</p> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment of this Main Modification has been undertaken, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality.</b></p>

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						<b>No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b>
Policy YV3: East Coker and North Coker Buffer Zone	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>Proposed Submission Local Plan Policy YV3 underwent Equality Analysis (EqA) as part of its formulation. The Policy underwent Stage 1 screening as a result of Proposed Modification M102 in January 2013. This comprised a screening and summary statement, and at this stage it was considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment was not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p> <p>The intention of the buffer zone was to preserve the character of North Coker and East Coker, and prevent coalescence with Yeovil. However, at the Local Plan Hearing Sessions held in June 2014 (and confirmed in his Preliminary Findings of July 2014) the Inspector had concerns regarding the continued justification for the buffer zone in light of the reduced scale and extent of the South Yeovil SUE. The National Planning Practice Guidance re-iterates the advice in the NPPF that Local Green Space designations should only be used where the green area is not a large tract of land. The Council is therefore proposing to delete the East Coker and North Coker Buffer Zone from the</p>

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						<p>Local Plan. This involves deleting Policy YV3 and consequential modifications to delete references to the buffer zone in the supporting text (paragraphs 5.34 and 5.50-5.54) and removing the buffer zone from Inset Map15.</p> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken of this Main Modification, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p>

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SS3: Delivering new Employment Land	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>Proposed Submission Local Plan Policy SS3 underwent Equality Analysis (EqA) as part of its formulation. The Policy underwent Stage 1 screening as a result of Proposed Modification M34 in January 2013 and the Proposed Main Modifications submitted in March 2014 (PMM4.) This comprised a screening and summary statement, and at this stage it was considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment was not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p> <p>At the Local Plan Examination Hearing Sessions held in June 2014 (and confirmed in the Inspector's Preliminary Findings of 16 July 2014) there is concern regarding the inclusion of a target figure for employment land in Rural Settlements. The Council is therefore proposing the deletion of the figure for Rural Settlements as this would provide a more flexible approach. It is considered that this modification would not significantly threaten the balance between housing and employment across the District. Additional text is proposed to be added to Policy SS3 explaining that the remaining jobs in Rural Settlements will be expected to come forward through other Local Plan policies (SS2, EP4 and EP5). A footnote is also proposed to be added</p>



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						<p>to the policy to ensure consistency with Policy SS5 (early review of housing and employment policy at Wincanton).</p> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment of this Main Modification has been undertaken, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p>

Policy Number  Policies where Further Main Modifications are proposed	Is this a change to service delivery? (including, withdrawal or reduction of services)	Does the *policy/strategy/function/service / affect our workforce or employment practices	Is this a financial or budget decision that may affect any of the protected groups differently?	Could this policy or service and the way we deliver it affect some groups in society differently?	Does the policy / strategy / function service affect service users or the wider community?	Summary Statement and Comments
SS5: Delivering New Housing Growth	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>Proposed Submission Local Plan Policy SS5 underwent an Equality Analysis (EqA) as part of its formulation, as did the Policy as modified by Proposed Modification M74 in January 2013 and the Proposed Main Modifications PMM1 and PMM5 in March 2014. A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken, which comprised a screening and summary statement, and as this stage it was considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment was not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p> <p>At the Local Plan Examination Hearing Sessions held in June 2014 (and confirmed by his Preliminary Findings of 16 July) the Inspector sought greater clarity on how planning applications for residential development and overall housing growth will be managed in Wincanton and Crewkerne. The Council recognises that given Crewkerne does not have an identified 'Direction of Growth' and that Wincanton's 'Direction of Growth' is only for economic development there is therefore a need to be more definite for how applications for residential development will be considered.</p>

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						<p>To improve clarity for the development industry and the local community it is proposed that Policy SS5 (third paragraph) now makes direct reference to Crewkerne and Wincanton (and to development areas at Rural Centres). In response to the Inspector's Preliminary Findings it is also proposed to add a footnote to Policy SS5 to explain that an early review of housing and employment delivery in Wincanton will be undertaken as part of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document process, this will commence within two years and be completed within five years of the date of adoption of the Local Plan (for consistency this footnote is also to be added to Policy SS3). Additionally, a new paragraph will be added after paragraph 13.5 of the Local Plan explaining this intention.</p> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment of this Main Modification has been undertaken, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p>

**Table 2: Stage 1 Screening of Main Modifications (November 2014)**

<b>Policy Number</b>  <b>Policies where Further Main Modifications are proposed</b>	<b>Is this a change to service delivery? (including, withdrawal or reduction of services)</b>	<b>Does the *policy/strategy/function/service / affect our workforce or employment practices</b>	<b>Is this a financial or budget decision that may affect any of the protected groups differently?</b>	<b>Could this policy or service and the way we deliver it affect some groups in society differently?</b>	<b>Does the policy / strategy / function service affect service users or the wider community?</b>	<b>Summary Statement and Comments</b>
YV2: North East Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>As a result of the representations received during the Proposed Main Modifications consultation, in order to simplify the additional text on landscape mitigation amendments are proposed to be made to Policy YV2 by deleting the draft sixth bullet point relating to landscape mitigation for the North East Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension and replacing with the following bullet point criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Landscape mitigation to address:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><u>Potential massing effects across the site's northward face; and</u></b></li> <li>○ <b><u>Potential visual dominance at the site's edge and skyline.</u></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p>

SS5: Delivering New Housing Growth	No	No	No	No	Yes	<p>In response to concerns regarding the timescale for the proposed early review of housing and employment policy at Wincanton, in the light of the advice in the NPPG, it is accepted that to be considered genuinely 'early' the proposed review of the situation in Wincanton could be completed within a shorter timescale. It is therefore proposed that Policy SS5 (and the proposed new paragraph after Section 13.5 of the Local Plan) is amended to state that a review will be completed within three years of the date of adoption of the Local Plan:</p> <p><b><u>The Council will undertake an early review of Local Plan policy relating to housing and employment provision in Wincanton. This will be in accordance with statutory requirements and completed within three years of the date of adoption of the Local Plan.</u></b></p> <p>A Stage 1 Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken, and at this stage it is considered that a Stage 2 Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. <b>The revised Policy has no impact to equality. No negative impacts were identified and a full Equality Analysis is not required.</b></p>
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