

NORTH TAWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.

“Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

This report assesses the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that North Tawton Town Council is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies, in order to explore the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community. It is a method of assessing and recording the likely differential and/or adverse impact of a policy on people from different groups. If a policy results in unfairness or discrimination, then changes to eliminate or lessen the impact should be considered.

Aims of the Equality Analysis

The purpose of the analysis is to increase participation and inclusion, to change the culture of public decision-making and to place a more proactive approach to the promotion of equality and fairness at the heart of public policy. The processes involved in conducting the analysis should not be looked on as an end in themselves. Instead, it should be borne in mind that the aim is the promotion of fairness and equality of opportunity and thus it is the outcomes that are of primary concern. In undertaking the EIA, we were clear about why the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan is needed, what the intended outcomes are, and how it will be ensured that the policies will work as intended.

METHODOLOGY

An assessment has been made on whether the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available).

BASELINE DATA

Data for the Parish of North Tawton are available for the following protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race and religious belief.

No data is available for the following protected characteristics: gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity and sexual orientation.

The data source is the 2011 census, Parish of North Tawton. <http://www.ukcensusdata.com/north-tawton-e05003650#sthash.IDvqH1LZ.nK3EK0pa.dpbs>

AGE

All usual residents 2026

Age 0-4 117

Age 5-9 107

Age 10-14 117

Age 15-19 112

Age 20-29 198

Age 30-59 840

Age 60-64 159

Age 65 -84 327

Age 85 and over 49

SEX

Males 51%

Females 49%

MAIN LANGUAGE

All usual residents aged 3 and over 1955

English 1941 (99.3%)

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

All usual residents 2026

UK 1974 (97.4%)

EU countries 22 (1.09%)

Other 30 (1.5%)

ETHNIC GROUP

All usual residents 2026

White 2010 (99.2%)

25 January 2020

RELIGION

All usual residents	2606	
Christian	1281	(63.2%)
No religion	576	(27.8%)
Other	14	(0.54%)
Not stated	155	

HEALTH

All usual residents	2026
Daily activities limited a lot	158
Daily activities limited a little	201

PROVISION OF UNPAID CARE

All usual residents	2606
Provides 1-19 hours unpaid care/week	144
Provides 20-49 hours unpaid care/week	27
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care/week	52

LIVING IN COMMUNAL ESTABLISHMENT

All usual residents	2606
Living in Communal Establishment	0

THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: 'HARD-TO REACH' GROUPS.

All written communications were in English and it was not considered necessary to translate them into any other language.

The Questionnaire (February 2014) was sent to every household in North Tawton. Information about consultation events was advertised widely around the town accessible to all residents.

Consultation took place in North Tawton with several organisations representative of the whole community, including the local primary school, the GP Surgery, Devon Heartlands Community Forum and a group of young people.

Members of the project team met in the park with around 25 young people to discuss their planning needs and ideas about the town's future. They were asked about what they liked and didn't like about living in North Tawton; about transport; how they found out about what is going on in the

town; about how they saw their future; and how they would like to see North Tawton change over the next 20 years.

The Draft Plan was available on line and hard copy and placed within a number of venues including GP surgery, Dentist, Post office, local fast food outlets, café, pubs, library and council office ensuring that all residents had opportunity to make comments.

The main consultation events took place in the Town Hall, an accessible venue that is familiar with residents, young and old.

IMPACT ON GROUPS WITH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

The Vision for North Tawton includes the words, 'The thriving North Tawton community - together with its surrounding areas - prides itself in its friendly community spirit and in its commercial and social facilities which meet the residents' day to day needs.' This is an inclusive statement.

The vision, objectives and policies in the Plan have been carefully reviewed. It is concluded that none of them would have a negative impact on any group with protected characteristics and the great majority are neutral. The positive impacts are as follows:

Policy CO1: Protecting Community Facilities from Loss

Developments which would result in the loss of locally valued community amenities and facilities will only be supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that alternative, easily accessible, comparable provision exists or is secured to serve the community, where proven need remains, through an assessment of the local community facilities' offer and role. This policy will benefit parents, young children, the elderly and those living with disabilities.

Policy E2 - Homeworking

Developers will be encouraged to make provision within new dwellings which actively facilitates homeworking and enable flexible working arrangements, such as internal workspace and availability of power, telephone and internet connections. This policy will benefit those living with disabilities.

Policy E4: Maintaining the Retail & Business Offer

Development proposals for change of the town's primary retail & business premises use to non-retail and non-service uses will only be supported where there is no significant harm to the level/range of local retail/service provision. This policy will benefit parents, young children, the elderly and those living with disabilities.

Policy HO3: Affordable Housing

Proposals for housing development will be required to provide an appropriate level of affordable housing and consider the inclusion of accommodation to meet the needs of the elderly population.

Policy HO5: Residential Care, Supported Living and Sheltered Homes

To help ensure provision for an ageing population and people with disabilities, proposals for development of residential care, assisted living and sheltered accommodation will be supported. Such proposals should offer a mixture of tenure opportunities and take account of factors such as local levels of need, affordability, and accessibility of sites. This policy will benefit the elderly and people with disabilities.

IN1: Development & Health Provision

Development proposals will be supported which provide or contribute positively to the provision of a Health Care Facility within the town. This policy will benefit parents, young children, the elderly and those living with disabilities.

Policy IN5 - Safe Walking and Cycling Routes

Development proposals which create or facilitate the creation of safe off-road cycle and accessible footpaths within the Parish will be supported where:

- i) there is no adverse impact on the immediate landscape setting;
- ii) there is no adverse impact on amenity of nearby properties;
- iii) the route is well-lit but there is no unacceptable impact from lighting the route;
- iv) links to the existing network of public footpaths including the Tarka Trail and Public Rights of Way are ensured, wherever feasible.

North Tawton Design Statement

7: Public Rights of Way

There are over ten miles of public footpaths and bridle paths within the parish of North Tawton, established over the centuries as a means of access from farm to church.

These footpaths are now mainly used for recreation. They can be linked together to provide pleasant walks of varying length to suit nearly all abilities. However, many are inaccessible to people with restricted mobility.

7.3 Where new footpaths and cycle ways are created, provision should be made for people with restricted mobility.

This policy and the Design Statement policy will benefit parents with young children and people with mobility needs.

CONCLUSION

The North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the parish and a range of policies and proposals which will result in positive benefits for those with protected characteristics: older people, young people and young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility, pregnant women and the parents of young children.

Whilst not explicitly addressing the needs of racial or religious groups, transgender, homosexual groups or women, the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan advocates a wide range of housing, and improvements to social, community and leisure facilities, which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a safer environment, particularly a safer public realm, where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.