

**EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Screening Assessment Form**

Name of policy___/strategy___/function_✓_ being assessed. Please ✓ what it is.

Public Space Protection Order (Control of Dogs)

1. Is this policy, strategy or function new _✓_ or an existing___ one? Please ✓ what it is.

1a. Briefly describe the reasons for developing or reviewing this?

Eg: change in legislation or requirements, results of consultation, part of a regular review cycle, etc.

The Council introduced in 2017 Public Spaces Protection Dog Control Order 2017 applicable to any land open to the public in the Borough Dog PSPO. The Dog PSPO relates to the following:

- the prohibition of dog fouling (applies Borough wide)
- the exclusion of dogs from specified land open to the public,
- the requirement for dogs to be on a lead on specified land open to the public and
- the maximum number of dogs a person can bring onto any land at any one time is set at four. (applies Borough wide)

It is criminal offence to contravene a requirement or prohibition of the Dog PSPO, without reasonable excuse or the consent of the landowner. A person who is registered blind or has a mobility disability requiring an assistance dog is exempt from the prohibitions in relation to dog fouling and the exclusion of dogs.

The Dog PSPO will expire on 31st April 2020 unless extended.

The Council is proposing (subject to consultation) to extend the current PSPO with the same requirements as the whilst amending the formatting.

2a. Describe the main aim or purpose of this item? Who will it benefit? Why is it needed?

The aim is to address the harm and nuisance that can be caused by dogs in public places by enforcing the prohibitions and requirements of the PSPO in order that:

- owners will clean up after their dogs in public places,
- children can play safely in play areas and beach areas without fear of being bitten by a dog or coming into contact with dog faeces.
- dogs do not cause a nuisance to persons participating in organised events on sport pitches and
- dogs do not harm flora and fauna in land designated SSSI or where the Council keeps animals.

3a. The Public Sector Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2010. The Duty requires the Council to have due regard to the following three aims:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equal opportunities between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

Having due regard means considering how this policy, strategy or function has or will advance equal opportunities for each of the protected groups below.

Persons who are registered blind or have a disability affecting their mobility and rely on a dog trained for such purposes are exempt from the PSPO prohibitions in relation to dog fouling and dogs to be on leads.

It does not always follow that where there is sufficient evidence that a PSPO has been contravened, the Council will prosecute. The Council must have regard to its enforcement policy in deciding whether it is in the public interest to do so, which involves taking into account the personal circumstances of the offender.

It is considered that the requirements and prohibitions of the PSPO are proportionate to the potential harm and nuisance they seek to address but there are still considerable public places for dog exercise on and off lead.

The Council will take into account the views of the public and stakeholders when deciding whether to extend the draft PSPO.

3b Identify how this item demonstrates due regard to the three aims above for each of the protected groups below.

(For marriage and civil partnership, legislation requires you only need to demonstrate how you would eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation)

Protected characteristic	This item demonstrates due regard by: Describe how it furthers equal opportunities. You can cite examples of any disadvantage this item removes or minimises, how it meets the specific needs of any groups, how it encourages participation, promotes understanding or integration between groups	Describe any negative impact or potentially negative impact of this item for any group. For any negative impact identified, describe actions already taken to address it. Any planned actions must be identified in section 4.	List data sources/ evidence used to assess impact and whether this item furthers the aims of the Equality Duty. Insert links to data used where possible
Age	None	None has been identified for any protected characteristic since implementation.	The PSPDCO having been in force for almost three years has had a positive impact on the locality.
Disability	Persons who are registered blind or have a mobility disability requiring a trained dog are exempt from certain requirements or prohibitions of a PSPO.	Consultation feedback will be reviewed for any	

		potential adverse impact on any of these.	
Gender reassignment	None		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None		
Pregnancy and Maternity	None		
Race (ethnic or national origin, colour, nationality)	None		
Religion or Belief (and lack of belief)	None		
Sex	None		
Sexual Orientation	None		
3c. Are there any other groups in addition to those above which could be impacted (e.g. socially or financially excluded) by this item? P ___yes ___✓___no			

4. Please Identify any further actions you will take resulting from this assessment.

Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date
<p>Public Consultation process and Timeline Full Council 05.02.2020 - For approval to consult on draft PSPOs and extention.</p> <p>4 week consultation period - inviting any comments on the proposed prohibitions / requirements. Means of consultation -Newspaper advert, website publication, social media posts- notices sent to Police and other stakeholders, notice deposited at reception. We will consider whether a variety of accessible formats for the public consultation is necessary or required. Dogs – Consultation notices sent to Kennel club, canine charities, notices displayed in A Valley, S Bay etc</p> <p>Community Board 04.03.2020 – Has regard to any reps from the consultation and decides whether to approve the Draft PSPO with or without modification</p>	<p>Azmi Quraishie</p>	

5. Do you have any additional comments? If so, please add.
NONE

6. Date of screening 27.01.2020	Officer(s) completing assessment Azmi Quraishie	Section Date Approved
7. Name of Section Head: Paul Grant	Date review completed.	
8. Date submitted to Board/Full Council	Date review completed	

EDSG Recommendation:

This assessment form is incomplete and requires additional information for its review by EDSG.

This assessment has been successfully reviewed with the following outcome:

- No major change** – The assessment of this policy/strategy/function shows no potential for discrimination and the aims of the Equality Duty have been met.
- ✓ **Adjust the policy/strategy or function** – This item will meet the aims of the Equality Duty if actions identified in Sections 3 and 4 to remove barriers or to better advance equality are implemented.
- Continue the policy/strategy/function** – There is some potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality, but no unlawful discrimination has been identified. Ensure effective equality monitoring is in place to regularly assess the actual impact on different groups
- Stop and Rethink** – Adverse equality impacts have been identified/ may not be justified and have not been sufficiently mitigated. Unlawful discrimination could be taking place. Do not adopt or continue until a full equality investigation has been completed.