

Equality Impact Assessment – Public Spaces Protection Orders

■ Step 1 – Introductory information

Title of the policy	Public Spaces Protection Orders
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Nicky Gibson
Date EIA started	22 nd March 2016
Date EIA completed	7 th January 2016

■ Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>These Orders are put in place to inform residents about dog control and requirements for dog owners in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog fouling and not clearing up afterwards • Dogs on leads • Dogs on leads by Direction • Dog exclusion zones <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) replace the current Dog Control Orders put in place in 2007. The requirement for change came in with the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>The PSPO's are relevant to all residents and visitors to Charnwood and affect anyone who is in control of a dog (s)</p> <p>People who have a registered assistance dog are exempt from dog fouling controls – details will be included on Order</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?
<p>Parish/Town/Ward Clerks and Councillors</p> <p>Dog Organisations – Kennel Club and College Garth Kennels</p> <p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>All residents in Charnwood (article in Charnwood news)</p>

■ Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Age – older people are often dog owners for company

Race – BME culturally do not tend to have dogs as pets.

Race – BME often have an inherent fear of dogs

There are 10 million dogs in the UK according to records which equates to 1 in 6 people in the population owning a dog

Incident recording – there is a mapping resource to identify areas where dog fouling is an issue based on reports from residents.

Young people – should be allowed to play and use green spaces without fear of dogs being out of control

What does this information / data tell you about diverse group? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)

The Parish Clerks in Birstall felt it was needed to add dogs on leads in parks due to consultation and previous requests from residents expressing a wish to have green spaces where people's dog are on leads and therefore more likely to be in proper control. This was evidenced by a number of incidents where grounds staff were bitten and two serious attacks on children where they both received serious injury.

■ Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?

In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.

All residents have been consulted and all PSPO's will be reviewed every 3 years. Amendments and revisions can be added before that time if evidence is received that there is a need for additional controls. The controls must meet the legal test and must be justified.

■ Step 5 – Assessing the impact

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	Comments
Age	Positive – clearer Orders informing residents about dog control will have appositve impact on all ages.
Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)	There are exceptions to the Order for people with disabilities where their manual dexterity is affected. There are also exceptions in the Order for blind people. The Order makes it clear to all residents who are exempt which adds clarity for all residents.
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	Positive - neutral
Race	Positive – The Order adds clarity for people about requirements in respect of dog control. Additional measures have been implemented in cemeteries and green spaces for dog control. Anecdotal evidence suggests BME population have an inherent fear of dogs.
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	Neutral
Sex (Gender)	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	Positive – if dogs are properly under control it would make pregnant women feel more secure.
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	Neutral

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

This PSPO will meet Charnwood Borough Council's equality and diversity requirements by adding clarity to dog control orders.

This PSPO will be publicised on social media, Charnwood website, Town and Parish Council websites and in paper format in the areas where they will be applicable. This will spread the strong message about dog control requirements which will make Charnwood a more relaxed place to be.

Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

The PSPO's will be reviewed every 3 years and the EIA will be reviewed at the same time.

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Consultation with interested groups, stronger understanding of how the Orders can be implemented and reviewed.

Step 7- Action Plan

Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:

The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan

Reference Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date

■ **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

	Who needs to know (Please tick)	How they will be informed (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's)
Employees		Published on intranet
Service users		Published with Cabinet report
Partners and stakeholders		Published with Cabinet report
Others		Published with Cabinet report
To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there?		Include in paper format in areas where controls will be renewed or altered.

Step 9- Conclusion (to be completed and signed by the Service H

Please delete as appropriate
I agree with this assessment
Signed (Service Head): Head of Regulatory Services
Date:

