

Equality and Rurality Impact Assessment Form

When completing this form you will need to provide evidence that you have considered how the ‘protected characteristics’ may be impacted upon by this decision. In line with the General Equality Duty the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard for the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

This form should be completed in conjunction with the guidance document available on the Intranet

Once completed a copy should be emailed to cheryl.sloan@publicagroup.uk to be signed off by an equalities officer before being published.

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Names: Kevin Lea	
Date of assessment: 01/10/2024	Telephone: 01285 623253 Email: kevin.lea@publicagroup.uk

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Public Protection – Environmental Health renewal of Public Space Protection Order PSPO – Dog Fouling for a further three years.

3. Briefly describe it aims and objectives

<p>The Order will be in force for a period of 3-years from the 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2028, after which there will be a further statutory review.</p> <p>To protect public health and public safety from the adverse actions of dogs and less responsible dog owners. To support the welfare of people through responsible dog ownership.</p> <p>Dog Fouling - Makes it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces. Covering all public places in the District This is defined as any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.</p>

4. Are there any external considerations? (e.g. Legislation/government directives)

<p>A Public Space Protection Order, also known as a PSPO, is a power available to Local Councils under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the legal framework for the creation of PSPOs. These control activities within defined areas.</p>

5. What evidence has helped to inform this assessment?

Source	✓	If ticked please explain what
Demographic data and other statistics, including census findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recent research findings including studies of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Results of recent consultations and surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Results of ethnic monitoring data and any equalities data	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anecdotal information from groups and agencies within Gloucestershire	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Comparisons between similar functions / policies elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Analysis of audit reports and reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultations carried out with Parish town councils, Police , Highways with the introduction of the original PSPO following the transition from a Dog control order in 2014.

6. Please specify how intend to gather evidence to fill any gaps identified above:

N/A

7. Has any consultation been carried out?

In August 2024, we contacted the following via email, Town & Parish Councils in CDC Gloucestershire Police and Police commissioner to notify them of our intention that we would like to extend the Order for a further 3 years. Other than publishing the extension, no further consultation will be required for the extension.

If NO please outline any planned activities

8. What level of impact either directly or indirectly will the proposal have upon the general public / staff? (Please quantify where possible)

Level of impact	Response
NO IMPACT – The proposal has no impact upon the general public/staff	
LOW – Few members of the general public/staff will be affected by this proposal	
MEDIUM – A large group of the general public/staff will be affected by this proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HIGH – The proposal will have an impact upon the whole community/all staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments: e.g. Who will this specifically impact?</p> <p>There is also potential for positive equality impact for the public that may be affected by inconsiderate behaviour of others. By extension of this order, in terms of mental well-being opportunities arising for people to feel safer when outdoors for health benefits, education, work or simply walking to their local shops and amenities.</p> <p>This is particularly so for families with young children, wheelchair users, and older people who may consider themselves to be vulnerable and less likely to venture out without pavements that can be navigated safely by them and their carers, and that are clear of detritus and dog faeces.</p> <p>It can be assumed that young children who are more likely to be playing on the ground are most likely to benefit from the reduction of dog fouling. Children will have less potential to be harmed by un-cleared faeces or distressed by coming into contact with it. Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts, if personal hygiene has not fully developed.</p> <p>There may be some negative consequences for some groups because removing dog fouling may present as a challenge. For example, wheelchair users and mobility scooter users could be particularly affected by dog fouling on streets and pathways, due to either difficulty picking up dog faeces if it has been caused by their own dog, or to difficulty dealing with dog fouling that they encounter which may go onto the wheels of their wheelchair or mobility scooter.</p> <p>As people with some disabilities may find it more challenging to comply with the Dog Fouling PSPO therefore included in the order are exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person who has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon whom he relies for assistance. • A person registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948. 	

9. Considering the available evidence, what type of impact could this function have on any of the protected characteristics?

Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty;

Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty;

Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure

	Potential Negative	Potential Positive	Neutral	Reasons	Options for mitigating adverse impacts
Age – Young People		x		Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts if personal hygiene has not fully developed.	
Age – Old People	x			Potential inability to remove dog fouling due to physical impairment.	
Disability		x		Wheelchair users particularly affected by dog fouling on streets, pathways etc. Toxoplasmosis can be a more dangerous infection for people with a weakened immunity leading to serious complications.	Appropriate exemptions in the draft PSPO Assistance dogs are for those who are trained to support people who rely on their assistance with their disability - registered blind or is deaf, has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
Sex – Male			x		There is no estimated direct or indirect disproportionate impact of these proposals to residents on the grounds of sexual orientation.
Sex – Female			x		There is no estimated direct or indirect disproportionate impact of these proposals to residents on the grounds of sexual orientation.
Race including Gypsy and Travellers			x		There is no known direct or indirect disproportionate impact in terms of dog control for residents on the grounds of race

Religion or Belief			x		There is no known direct or indirect disproportionate impact in terms of dog control for residents on the grounds of religion or philosophical belief
Sexual Orientation			x		There is no known direct or indirect disproportionate impact in terms of dog control for residents on the grounds of sexual orientation
Gender Reassignment			x		There is no known direct or indirect disproportionate impact in terms of dog control for residents on the grounds of gender reassignment.
Pregnancy and maternity		x			Toxoplasmosis can be a more dangerous infection for people with a weakened immunity and people who are pregnant and can lead to serious complications.
Geographical impacts on one area			x		None
Other Groups					None
Rural considerations: ie Access to services; leisure facilities, transport; education; employment; broadband.					N/A

10. Action plan (add additional lines if necessary)

Action(s)	Lead Officer	Resource	Timescale

11. Is there is anything else that you wish to add?

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, but it can also be dangerous, especially to children. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis, an infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures. While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

The renewal of the PSPO will contribute positively to the Council corporate key priorities. It will contribute to a cleaner environment and a reduction in the health & safety risks associated with direct exposure to dog fouling.

Dog Fouling is considered an environment issue which can have a massive effect on communities on the look and feel of neighbourhood and the renewal of the PSPO will assist in changing behaviour. Having the legislative powers available will help protect the public health of all age groups. To help secure a behavioural change so that dog fouling is socially unacceptable.

Declaration

I/We are satisfied that an equality impact assessment has been carried out on this policy, service, strategy, procedure or function and where a negative impact has been identified actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact. We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment.

Completed By:	Kevin Lea	Date:	03/10/2024
Line Manager:	Jon Dearing	Date:	04/10/2024
Reviewed by Corporate Equality Officer:	Cheryl Sloan	Date:	07/10/2024