

## Chesterfield Borough Council

### Equality Impact Assessment - Preliminary Assessment Form

The preliminary impact assessment is a quick and easy screening process. It should identify those policies, projects, services, functions or strategies which require a full EIA by looking at negative, positive or no impact on any of the equality groups.

Service Area: Health & Well-being  
Section: Environmental Health/Environmental Protection Team  
Lead Officer: Esther Thelwell

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy the preliminary EIA is being produced for:

**The Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 - Designation of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) (Dog control)**

Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:

~~Existing~~

~~Changed~~

**New/Proposed**

Q1 - What is the aim of your policy or new service?

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is a new power under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and came into force in October 2014.

PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular geographical area that is detrimental to the local communities quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, the Council adopted several Dog Control Orders (DCO's), these are: -

DC01 – dog fouling is not permitted in cemeteries (Boythorpe, Brimington, Spital and Staveley).

DC02 – dogs must be kept in a lead at cemeteries (Boythorpe, Brimington, Spital and Staveley).

DC03 - requiring the removal of faeces on all public open spaces.

DC04 – dog exclusion zone at Eastwood Park, Hasland (specified on a map).

DC05 – dogs must be on a lead at Eastwood Park, Hasland (specified on a map).

DC06 – dogs on leads by direction at Eastwood Park, Hasland (when requested by an authorised officer).

The PSPO will replace the 'dog control orders' listed above and will list several additional geographical locations where dogs will need to be on a lead (all year round), need to be on a lead (for part of the year, such as during bird nesting season) or be excluded (i.e. certain play areas).

## Q2 - Who is the policy or service going to benefit?

The PSPO for dog control will be of benefit to all residents and visitors to our parks and other publicly accessible land.

We are keen to welcome dog walkers and dogs to the Borough and also want to encourage responsible dog ownership. There are increasing public concerns over irresponsible dog ownership, including complaints of dog attacks on people and their pets, dog fouling on grassed areas as well as graves, and dogs out of control.

From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 the Environmental Protection Team received and investigated 357 complaints about dog fouling and 302 complaints about dogs (214 of which were reported as stray dogs).

Direct exposure to dog faeces can cause toxocariasis, an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*, potentially leading to respiratory and vision problems. Treading in dog faeces can also potentially lead to slips, trips and falls, and subsequent injuries.

Q3 - Thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, project, service, function or strategy have an impact on protected characteristics below? You may also need to think about sub groups within each characteristic e.g. older women, younger men, disabled women etc.

Please tick the appropriate columns for each group.

<b>Group or Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Potentially positive impact</b>	<b>Potentially negative impact</b>	<b>No impact</b>
Age – including older people and younger people.			✓
Disabled people – physical, mental and sensory including learning disabled people and people living with HIV/Aids and cancer.			✓
Gender – men, women and transgender.			✓
Marital status including civil partnership.			✓
Pregnant women and people on maternity/paternity. Also consider breastfeeding mothers.			✓
Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual, Lesbian, gay men and bi-sexual people.			✓
Ethnic Groups			✓
Religions and Beliefs including those			✓

with no religion and/or beliefs.			
Other groups e.g. those experiencing deprivation and/or health inequalities.			✓

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

Q4 - Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy?

Yes   
 No

Q5 - Reasons for this decision:

No negative impacts are anticipated on protected groups. The PSPO order includes the three following exemptions to mitigate against potential indirect discrimination:

Exemptions

This Order shall not apply to a person who: -

- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
- (b) has a disability which affects his/her mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he/she relies on for assistance;
- (c) has received written permission/exemption from Chesterfield Borough Council.

Please e-mail this form to the Policy Service before moving this work forward so that we can confirm that either a full EIA is not needed or offer you further advice and support should a full EIA be necessary.