

Equality Impact Assessment Template

Summary of decision to be made:	Review of introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders in 2018 to address quality of life issues and tackle anti-social behaviour. Proposals for implementation of additional PSPO in 2022		
Lead Officer (job title):	Corporate Governance Officer, Community Safety Officer		
Date the final decision is due to be made:	14/04/2022	Date this assessment commenced:	28/01/2022
Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to:			
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes		
Advance equality of opportunity	Yes		
Foster good relations	Yes		
Background:			
Continuation of a Public Space Protection Order to address:			
Dog fouling			
Dog exclusion			
Dog control			
Alcohol control			
New psychoactive substances			
Begging			
Rough sleeping			
Amplified music			
Implementation of a PSPO in 2022 to address:			
Dog control (new location – Dunorlan Park, dogs on leads in the formal area of the park with an area set aside for unrestricted exercise)			
Anti-social behaviour (new location, Sherwood Lake) associated with people congregating with people fishing. The proposal would ban overnight camping, alcohol use and prohibit fishing from the most accessible ‘swim’ at the lakeside.			
Anti-social behaviour (new location, St John’s Park) associated with young adults congregating in the park, near residential properties throughout the summer and often throughout the night. The proposal would see a prohibition on being in the park between 11pm and 5am.			
Anti-social behaviour (new location, RTW multi-storey car parks) associated with people loitering in the car parks to drink, smoke and participate in activities such as skateboarding, cycling and free running. The proposal is for a no loitering order for all multi-storey car parks.			
This equality impact assessment will consider the above issues and whether there are any particular issues with regards to the protected characteristics.			
Overall findings from the Residents’ Survey (2015) are summarised in paragraph 5.1 of the committee report. Findings from the consultation are summarised in paragraph 5.5 of the committee report.			
Relevance to the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty			
1. The need to ensure that implementation of a PSPO is not unlawfully discriminatory is relevant to the first aim of the duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.			

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2. The need to consider how we can take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, who may be affected by the implementation of the PSPO is relevant to the second aim of the duty to advance equality of opportunity.
3. The way the Council operates the PSPO could also be relevant to fostering good relations with regard to maintaining the confidence and trust in the local authority by people with protected characteristics.

For each of the following characteristics:	Summarise available data, statistics or consultation findings.	State how the proposal will impact on people.	What action will be taken to reduce or mitigate any potential negative impacts
Disability	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) There were no differences between respondents with disabilities and respondents without disabilities with regards to anti-social behaviour issues.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) 5% of respondents had a long-term health problem or disability. 8% 'preferred not to say' whether they had a long-term health problem or disability. Individual comments relating to the proposals are described below.</p> <p>Dog fouling: - A scooter user is able to use a grabber to clear up after a dog and dispose in the bin or at home. However, they sometimes have difficulties in cleaning up after their dog and a fine would not change this. They also made a comment about the availability of dog bags at machines.</p> <p>Dog exclusion:</p>	<p>Dog fouling: The proposals seek to increase the fines, which are already in place for dog fouling. We do not consider that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put people with disabilities at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Dog exclusion: The proposals restrict the exclusion zones to Council-owned fenced children's playgrounds only, with exceptions to be made for assistance dogs, where appropriate.</p> <p>Psychoactive substances: The comments received in the consultation do not suggest that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put people with disabilities at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Begging and rough sleeping: There is potential that people with mental health disabilities could be affected. It is not the</p>	<p>Begging and rough sleeping: Authorised officers will complete a rough sleeping and begging assistance form. This</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider the accessibility of restriction free alternatives for those with reduced mobility. - The Council to allow some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog <p>Psychoactive substances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current measures will not address the issue of drug use by people with mental health disabilities who self-medicate. <p>Begging and rough sleeping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and safety issues for elderly and disabled people where people begging cause obstructions in particular locations. <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPOs in 2022 8.3% of respondents had a long-term health problem of disability. Individual comments relating to the proposals are described below.</p> <p>Dog control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration for those who may not be able to keep their dog on a lead due to a disability such as arthritis or use of a walking stick. 	<p>Council’s intention to penalise people who are begging or sleeping rough but to take a reasonable and proportionate response based on whether an individual is causing issues for other users of the public space and whether they are already engaging with support services. Cases of begging or rough sleeping will be considered on an individual basis and discretion will be applied. We have produced guidance which sets out reasonable behaviour and behaviour which will not be tolerated. Authorised officers will not issue a fixed penalty notice unless Council staff have established persistent anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022)</p>	<p>will capture where an individual is engaging with support services (housing, mental health, alcohol or drug treatment) or whether they are willing to accept support. We will use this form to monitor those affected who are engaging with mental health services. We will review this information alongside a review of the PSPO after one-year.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required. We have managed complaints of rough sleeping and begging without the need to issue notices. This is due to rough sleeper initiatives being put in place, including those as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) - no additional mitigations required</p>

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	<p>- Concerns that those who may not be able to access all spaces of the park, due to a disability, will not be able to continue to use the park to exercise their dogs.</p>	<p>- Exemptions for people with disabilities have been included in the order.</p>	<p>– exemptions will be in place where appropriate.</p>
Race	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) There were no differences by ethnicity with regards to anti-social behaviour issues.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) 1% of respondents gave their ethnic group as 'other' and 1% as 'mixed/multiple ethnic group'. 10% preferred not to give their ethnic group. No issues were raised in relation to ethnicity.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPOs in 2022 Respondents gave their ethnic groups as 88.6% 'White', 1.4% as 'Mixed/Multiple ethnic group', 1% as 'Asian or Asian British', 0.3% as 'Black or Black British' and 0.4% as 'other Ethnic Group'.</p> <p>Dog control</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPOs (2022) We do not consider that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put people from different ethnic groups at a disadvantage.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPOs (2022) None identified.</p>

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	<p>- Comments that the approach would affect young, bame, working class dog owners.</p>		
Sex	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) There were no differences between males and females with regards to anti-social behaviour issues.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) 40% were females and 55% were male. 5% preferred not to say. No issues were raised in relation to males and females.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 60.3% were females and 36.5% were males. 3.1% preferred not to say.</p> <p>Dog control</p> <p>- Concerns about the park feeling unwelcome and for women being able to find a safe space to walk their dogs.</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) <i>We acknowledge that there may be concerns about safety within the park as the area may feel dark and remote in the winter.</i></p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) The Community Safety Team will commit to undertaking an environmental visual audit (EVA) with an experienced Kent Police crime reduction officer to assess what improvements can be made to the designated area.</p>
Age	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) A significantly higher proportion of residents aged 55 were in favour of the Council influencing all suggested</p>		

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	<p>behaviours (which included street drinking, psychoactive substances, begging, dogs being kept on leads in parks, and amplified music)</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) The proportion of respondents in each age group were: 18-24: 2% 25-34: 4% 35-44: 13% 45-54: 27% 55-64: 17% 65+: 30% Prefer not to say: 7%. Individual comments relating to the proposals are described below.</p> <p>Dog fouling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are existing problems with dog fouling on sports/play areas used by young people. - Concerns about dog walking being portrayed as ‘anti-social’ when it has health and social benefits, particularly for the elderly who use the areas in question to walk their dogs. <p>Dog exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the impact on the elderly and where they will be able to walk their dogs 	<p>Dog fouling: Whilst the comments raise conflicting issues, the proposals were supported by 84% of respondents overall. The proposals seek to increase the fines, which are already in place for dog fouling. Whether this will encourage more people to clean up after their dog, including on sports/play areas, is unknown. There is no evidence to suggest that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put particular age groups at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Dog exclusion:</p>	

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	<p>if they are banned from parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the impact on young families with dogs who will not be able to bring their dogs to the areas in question. - Concerns that there have been instances of young children being frightened by dogs that are currently walked in the areas concerned. <p>Alcohol Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Query about why is there no Alcohol Control Area on the Hawkenbury Recreation Ground (as a magnet for young drinkers). - The issue of young people drinking should be addressed. <p>Psychoactive substances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drug consumption by young people reported by residents in their areas. - Concerns over rough sleepers and people begging scaring young children by openly injecting drugs. <p>Begging and rough sleeping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and safety issues for elderly and disabled people 	<p>Following consultation on the proposals, we have revised the exclusions zones so that dogs on leads will be permitted St Marks Recreation Ground and The Nevill Ground. There are also areas near to these locations where dogs can be let off their leads.</p> <p>Alcohol Control: Alcohol control zones are already operating in parts of the borough. The comments received in the consultation do not suggest that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put particular age groups at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Psychoactive substances: The comments received in the consultation do not suggest that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put particular age groups at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Begging and rough sleeping: The comments received in the consultation do not suggest that the proposals will unlawfully discriminate or put particular age groups at a disadvantage.</p>	<p>Dog exclusion: We will monitor any complaints received for age-related issues.</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">where people begging cause obstructions in particular locations.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 The proportion of respondents in each age group were: 18-24: 2.9% 25-34: 11.5% 35-44: 20.9% 45-64: 40.6% 65-74: 15% 75+: 4.7% Prefer not to say: 4.3%.</p> <p>Dog control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments that the approach would affect young, bame, working class dog owners. - Consideration for those who re elderly and may not be able to keep their dog on a lead. <p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns about the impact of the car park proposals on young people and those who are homeless. 	<p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022)</p> <p>Dog Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exemptions for people with disabilities will be included which will address concerns relating to elderly dog walkers. <p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Order will not affect people who are rough sleeping. PSPOs cannot be used to ‘ban’ rough sleeping. - Young people have a range of open spaces in the town centre where they can gather and enjoy each other’s company, including The Commons, Calverley Grounds and The Grove. For times when the weather is inclement there are provisions at the KCC Youth Hub on Grove Road and the Y4C Centre on Grosvenor Road. 	<p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) – none identified.</p>

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Religion / Belief	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) Information about religion/belief was not captured in the survey.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) Religion/belief questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to religion/belief.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 Religion/belief questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to religion/belief.</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) Information about sexual orientation was not captured in the survey.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18)</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>None</p>

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	<p>Sexual orientation questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to sexual orientation.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 Sexual orientation questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to sexual orientation.</p>	<p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>
Pregnancy / Maternity	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) Information about pregnancy/ maternity was not captured in the survey.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) Pregnancy/maternity questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p>

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	<p>this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to pregnancy/maternity.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 Pregnancy/maternity questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to pregnancy/maternity.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO's (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>
Marital or Civil Partnership Status	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) Information about marital or civil partnership status was not captured in the survey.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) Marital or civil partnership status questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to marital or civil partnership status.</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p>

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	<p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p> <p>Consultation on additional PSPO's in 2022 Marital or civil partnership status questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to marital or civil partnership status.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Residents' Survey (2015) Information about gender reassignment was not captured in the survey.</p> <p>Consultation on the PSPO (2017/18) Gender reassignment questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to gender reassignment status.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p>

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	<p>Consultation on additional PSPO in 2022 Marital or civil partnership status questions were not asked of people responding to the consultation, so we are unable to determine whether there were any differences in responses based on this protected characteristic. No issues were raised in relation to marital or civil partnership status.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>	
Armed Forces Community	<p>To be considered as part of the commitments within the Community Covenant to encourage support for the Armed Forces community working and residing in the borough.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no further feedback received.</p>	<p>We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional impacts identified.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) We have not identified any issues in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Review of existing measures (2022) – no additional mitigations required.</p> <p>Additional PSPO (2022) None identified.</p>	
Please tick the outcome of this assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> No impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue the policy ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy
How will you summarise the impacts in the committee report:	<p>With regard to the first aim of the general equality duty, we do not consider that the proposed policy is unlawfully discriminatory. Although there is potential for young people to be affected by the proposals by the new locations for Public Space Protection Orders, there are a range of alternatives within the town centre where they can gather.</p> <p>With regard to the second aim of the general equality duty, the proposals take account of the needs of people with disabilities with regards to making exceptions for assistance dogs in dog exclusion zones or where owners may have difficulties using a lead because of a disability. Concerns about women feeling safe when exercising their dogs in the proposed unrestricted area of Dunorlan Park have been noted. The Community Safety Team will commit to undertaking an environmental visual audit (EVA) with an</p>			

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	<p>experienced Kent Police crime reduction officer to assess what improvements can be made to the designated area.</p> <p>With regards to fostering good relations the proposals seek to introduce a reasonable and proportionate response to issues of anti-social behaviour that balances the needs of all those who use the areas where such behaviour may occur.</p>		
When will you review this assessment:	30/06/2023 or one year after implementation.		